

Fadlallah: Door is still open to free French hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A top Shi'ite Muslim cleric was Sunday reported as saying the door was still open for securing the release of French hostages held in Lebanon.

"The case (of the French hostages) is not deadlocked yet. There is more than one open door," Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah told the Paris-based Arabic weekly Al Mustakbal which appeared on newstands here Sunday.

Fadlallah, spiritual guide to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), said he had sought "more than anyone else" to free French researcher Michel Seurat. On March 5 the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group said it had "executed" Seurat.

"I was as surprised as everybody else to hear that Michel Seurat, who being a researcher I sought more than anyone else to release, was executed," Fadlallah added.

Islamic Jihad says it holds three other Frenchmen, diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and journalist Jean-Paul Kaufmann. The diplomats were seized a year ago and Kaufmann and Seurat last May.

A four-man French television crew, a Lebanese-born Frenchwoman, six Americans, a Briton, an Italian and a South Korean

Line" battlefield. Shi'ite Amal militia Nabih Berri, previously involved in efforts to release the French hostages, said Saturday he disapproved of "any citizen whatever his nationality" being abducted.

The 48-year-old leader was addressing foreign diplomats on the 12th anniversary of the foundation of his militia.

Mr. Berri, also minister for South Lebanon, said the presence of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was essential. "Resistance is the way to liberate the South from Israeli occupation, but the presence of UNIFIL is essential," he said.

U.N. Undersecretary-General Marrack Gouding said Saturday the United Nations wanted a rapid Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon to let UNIFIL troops deploy to the border.

The two Iraqi dissidents, Muhammad Hassan Khair Al Din, 40, and Fawzi Hadi Hamza, 36, confirmed Saturday night they had been pardoned by President Saddam Hussein.

They made no mention, however, of their expulsions from France, which last week negotiated their pardon, and did not say if they were trying to return to resume their studies.

Hamza said he had joined the

banned Da'awa (call) Party in Iraq in early 1972 and left four years later for Libya. He said he stayed there for a year and then worked in Abu Dhabi for several more years before going to France to study.

He said he worked for the Da'awa Party in Abu Dhabi and France against Iraq and to promote Iran's Islamic Revolution.

Hamza said Islamic activities in France were aimed at "pressing Paris to change its pro-Iraq policy and to supply Iran with weapons." Kahrir Al Din said he left Iraq in 1979 for Syria and then for France to study. He had been recruited in Damascus by the Mujahideen organisation and visited Iran in 1984.

He said he was assigned to recruit Iraqis abroad to join the Mujahideen and had visited several East European countries for that reason.

He said special members of Islamic organisations recruited in Europe were sent to Iran for "ideological preparation" and then underwent military training in Iran, Syria or Libya.

He said most Islamic organisations were under Syrian or Iranian control "but operations in Europe are carried out under the Islamic Jihad umbrella."

Mahdi condemns Sudanese rebel leader

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A leading contender in next month's national elections denounced Sudanese rebel leader John Garang on Sunday and called on the army to clear Sudan's territory of "foreign elements and agents."

Sadek Al Mahdi, leader of the powerful Umma Party and a former prime minister, made the statement on his return from Libya where he conferred with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

Mr. Mahdi criticised Col. Garang for escalating military operations while a delegation of Sudanese political parties, trade unions and other groups was holding talks in Ethiopia with representatives of Col. Garang's Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA).

Mr. Mahdi said Col. Garang was receiving supplies, transportation and logistical support from the pro-Soviet Ethiopian government. He pledged his party's support for the Sudanese army in the battle against the SPLA.

"The Sudanese people and their armed forces are capable of defending the country and at the same time are ready to solve the internal problems the same as they are ready to maintain good neighbourly relations," Mr. Mahdi said.

Mr. Mahdi is considered a leading contender for the prime ministership in the forthcoming elections, which the ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC) has promised in an effort to restore full civilian rule.

Col. Garang has continued the three-year-long civil war in southern Sudan despite last April's overthrow of President Jaafar Numeiri by the military.

Algeria, Tunisia to improve political cooperation

ALGIERS (R) — Tunisia and Algeria have agreed to increase their political cooperation, a press statement issued after a one-day visit to Algiers by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali said Sunday.

Mr. Mzali, who returned to Tunis Sunday, met Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and took part in a meeting Saturday of high-ranking officials from the Algerian and Tunisian ruling parties, Algeria's APS news agency said.

His visit coincided with a visit to Tripoli by Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi aimed at strengthening links between Algeria and Libya after a period of mutual distrust.

Tunisia, which broke diplomatic relations with Libya last autumn after a crisis sparked by the massive expulsion of Tunisian migrant workers from Libya, is following closely the rapprochement between its two neighbours, diplomatic sources here said.

The press communiqué said Tunisia's ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD) and Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN) Party decided that the working group which met in Algiers Saturday would meet periodically. The next meeting will be held in Tunis in May, it said.

U.S. envoy reportedly met Libyan officials

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Times said Sunday U.S. Ambassador William A. Wilson went to Tripoli for a secret, unauthorised meeting with Libyan officials just days after last December's attacks on the Vienna and Rome airports.

Quoting unnamed White House and State Department officials, the newspaper said Secretary of State George Shultz had reprimanded Mr. Wilson, the ambassador to the Vatican and a member of the board of Pennzoil, but no other action was taken because of the envoy's close relationship with President Reagan.

Pennzoil does business in Libya. Washington has accused Libya of involvement in the attacks. Libya has denied this.

It was not clear whether Mr. Wilson had any direct talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Asked to comment on the report, a State Department spokesman told Reuters: "There have been no contacts authorised between U.S. officials and Qadhafi and his regime. There are no government negotiations with the Qadhafi regime."

He declined to answer when asked whether there had been any unauthorised contact or whether Mr. Wilson had been disciplined for any reason.

The Times said Wilson, reached in Rome, declined comment and said any report on the meeting had a 50-50 chance of being wrong.

Meanwhile U.S. Navy jets were planning to fly off the Libyan coast in an area that includes the disputed Gulf of Sirte in new manoeuvres, the Defence Department said.

A spokesman would not confirm if the manoeuvres had already begun, saying only: "It is not our policy to confirm the start of exercises."

Djibouti — Ahaven in a volatile region

By Osei Kofi
Reuter

DJIBOUTI — On a world map, the East African state of Djibouti is a dot sandwiched between two giants, Ethiopia and Somalia, and the sea.

Located at a confluence of Arabic and African cultures, at the juncture of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and sharing borders with two belligerent neighbours, Djibouti plays a role in world politics and commerce that belies its size.

When Soviet, British and French governments needed to evacuate their nationals caught in a bloody power struggle in South Yemen in January, it was to fly Djibouti that they turned for help.

For days, world attention focused on Djibouti harbour as thousands of weary refugees of various nationalities descended from Soviet, French and British freighters and the Britannia, Queen Elizabeth's personal liner, which had rescued them from the Mayhem in Aden.

A hot, arid, rocky former French colony of 350,000 people,

Djibouti has scarcely any natural resource except untapped geothermal power. It has therefore turned to the sea as a mainstay for its economic development.

Djibouti Port is not among the largest on the East African littoral but it is one of its finest.

It is part natural, part man-made and has modern refuelling and watering facilities, underused warehouses, a customs-free zone and great sailors.

An average of 1,500 boats dock at its 13 berths every year and none has to wait for long to discharge or load. One in 10 vessels is a warship.

Two recently-commissioned container gantries in bright blue dominate the skyline of the port city and symbolise the port authority's ambition to win a good slice of a growing and lucrative regional container business.

"The future of the port business points to containerisation and trans-shipment of freight. We are fully prepared," Port Master Ahmad Aden Douale, a 34-year-old civil engineering graduate of New York's Columbia University, told Reuters.

Mr. Douale's strategy is to take in a share of the trans-shipment business in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden to the north, in East Africa to the South West and in the Gulf states to the North East.

He believes only the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah offers comparable facilities in the region but says that harbour is busy enough handling the kingdom's huge import orders.

"Our facilities are extremely competitive in the region. When one offers best service to clients one becomes the best for them," Prime Minister Hamadou Barkat Gourar, whose portfolio covers the port, told Reuters.

The harbour, a modern airport, a 780-kilometre railway, which links Djibouti to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, and a growing banking sector account for nearly all of Djibouti's gross domestic product of about 5500 million a year.

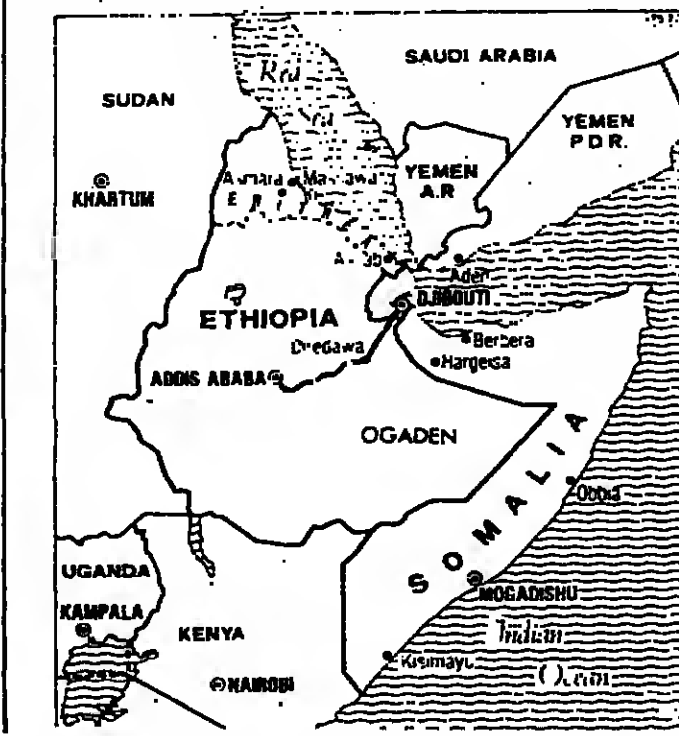
Djibouti is France's main naval base in the Indian Ocean and some 3,000 French troops are stationed there under a 1977 defence accord which includes the training of the country's armed forces.

Spending by the servicemen and their dependants forms an important part of government revenue and Djibouti supermarkets brim with all the consumer goods the expatriate community is used to at home.

Djibouti has escaped the worst effects of drought in the region because it has virtually no agriculture and imports all its food — fruits and vegetables from Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya and canned and processed foods from France.

A recent rapprochement in Djibouti between Ethiopia and Somalia, long-standing enemies in the Horn of Africa, was a high-point of Djibouti's role as a moderator in a volatile region.

It was under President Hassan Gouled's mediation at a launch last January of a regional body to fight drought that Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre talked to each other for the first time after years of hostilities.



Palestinians to help defend Arab states against Iran

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A high official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declared Sunday the commando movement will help defend Iraq or any other Arab country in the Gulf region in the event of a military threat by Iran.

Salah Khalaf, second to Yasser Arafat in the leadership of the PLO mainline commando group Fateh, declared the Feb. 9 Iranian invasion of the southern Iraqi Fao Peninsula and the subsequent threats to Kuwait and other Gulf Arab powers.

"We, Palestinians, shared the prosperity of these (Arab) countries, and we are determined to share their sorrows too," Mr. Khalaf said in a press conference here. We will help defend these countries against any external intervention."

Mr. Khalaf stressed that no Palestinians were fighting alongside Iraq against Iran, expressing hopes the five-year-old conflict would be ended without delay.

Responding to a question, Mr. Khalaf denounced the United States for insisting that the PLO accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 because, he complained, "it does not recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

He admitted the Jordan-PLO peace bid had "reached a deadend, and the only alternative now is to attain pan-Arab solidarity."

"We want Egypt back in the Arab fold... we want a unified Arab stance in the face of not merely the Israeli menace but inter-Arab bickering as well," Mr. Khalaf demanded. "Arab solidarity would help end the Iranian war, help Sudan avert the threat of being divided, defuse the Lebanese crisis, face the American threats to Libya... Arab solidarity would be a panacea."

Egypt's membership of the Arab League was suspended and most Arab governments boycotted the Cairo government in protest against the 1979 U.S.-

arranged Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

He denied as "sheer fabrication" a Kuwaiti newspaper report about a "rapprochement" being arranged between Syria and the PLO. The newspaper Al Rai Al Aam had claimed that Syria was releasing from detention a number of PLO detainees.

In return, the paper said, the PLO was to suspend its war of words against Syria and accept Syria's role in Lebanon.

Syria has been trying to bring to an end the decade-old civil war in Lebanon. Mr. Khalaf said the Syrian government was still seeking to replace PLO chairman Arafat, insisting that "this meddling in our affairs, and no Palestinian will accept that."

Syria supports dissident commando factions opposed to Mr. Arafat.

Asked if the PLO would set up a government-in-exile as a step toward solving the Palestinian

question, Mr. Khalaf said "that would be feasible only when we see an independent state of our own loom on the horizon... but right now we see nothing."

He vowed to "pursue and escalate the armed struggle" against Israel from bases inside Israeli-occupied territory.

"We will help our people within the occupied territory with all that we have," he pledged, conceding the PLO was in "tight financial straits."

Mr. Khalaf complained about a "four-year-old financial blockade being imposed" on the PLO, lauding Saudi Arabia for fulfilling its aid commitments to the movement.

He also said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has "partially lifted that blockade," praising UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan for contributing an undisclosed sum to aid to PLO.

"Yes, we are suffering financially, but money is not everything," Mr. Khalaf added.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

14:50 — Karam

14:55 — Cartoon

15:20 — Live transmission of Soccer match: Iraq Vs. the United Arab Emirates

17:30 — Children programme

17:50 — Small Wonder

18:15 — Local Series

19:15 — Local Programme

20:00 — News in Arabic

20:35 — A special programme on the occasion of World Meteorology Day

21:05 — Arabic series

22:10 — Tomorrow's programmes

22:15 — Arabic film

23:00 — News Summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

19:00 — Boite aux lettres

19:05 — News in French

19:20 — Magazine Sport (French)

19:30 — News in Hebrew

20:00 — News in Arabic

20:30 — Carol Burnett And Friends

21:10 — Sense and Sensibility

22:00 — News in English

22:30 — Dallas

RADIO JORDAN

85.1 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

& partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

Tel: 77411-19

07:00 — Light Music

07:30 — Newslet

07:45 — Morning Show

10:00 — News Summary

10:30 — Pop Session

12:00 — News Summary

12:30 — Pop Session Contd.

13:00 — News Summary

13:30 — Pop Session Contd.

14:00 — News Bulletin

14:30 — Sports Round-up

14:50 — Concert Hour

15:00 — News Summary

15:30 — Instrumentals

16:00 — Over a Cup of Tea

16:30 — Concert Hour

16:50 — News Summary

17:00 — Instrumentals

17:30 — The 15th Century A.H.

17:50 — Pop Session

18:30 — News Summary

18:45 — Sports Round-up

18:55 — Special Feature

19:00 — Newslet

19:30 — Date with a Star

20:00 — Evening Show

21:00 — News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A French exhibition on film directing at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 27)

* An art exhibition by Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 30)

* French exhibition "MD, portrait de Femme" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27)

* A handicraft exhibition by the Soviet Republic of Belorussia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 30)

* An exhibition with originals about the work of the German Artist Christian Schudt at the Goethe Institute (until April 5)

CINEMA

* "Nathalie Ganger" at 8.00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

American Centre .. 644371

American Centre Library .. 641520

British Council .. 6361478

French Cultural Centre .. 637009

Goethe Institute .. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777

Hayat Arts Centre .. 651955

H.W.C.A. .. 667181/6

Y.W.C.A. .. 641793

Amman Municipal Library .. 664251

University of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

Polio Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 10th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill),

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 661757.

Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678906.

Assumption Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

Assume International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sami), Tel. 811295.

Reformed Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 606974.

PRAYER TIMES

04:12 — Fair

05:35 — (Sunrise) Duka

11:43 — Dhuhr

15:12 — 'Asr

17:53 — Maghrib

19:34 — Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:35 — Kuwait (KU)

09:45 — Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

09:45 — Agaba (RJ)

10:00 — Cairo, Agaba (RJ)

10:00 — Beirut (RJ)

10:00 — Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

10:35 — Dhahran (IR)

10:45 — Kuwait (KU)

10:45 — Jeddah, Medina (SV)

10:45 — Beirut (RJ)

10:30 — Cairo (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifai meets Egyptian finance minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Sunday conferred with visiting Egyptian Minister of Finance Salaheddine Hamed who is currently participating in the 10th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank which opened here on Saturday. Attending the meeting at the Prime Ministry were Under Secretary at the Egyptian Ministry of Planning Arafat Al Shafii and Egypt's Ambassador to Jordan Thab Wahbeh.

Muasher receives Tunisian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Al Muasher Sunday received visiting Tunisian Planning Minister Ismail Khaleel for discussions on economic and trade relations between the two countries and ways of supporting and developing these relations. The meeting was attended by the Tunisian ambassador in Amman, Mr. Khaleel is taking part in the 10th annual conference of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) board of governors which began here Sunday.

Department marks meteorology day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Sunday celebrated International Meteorology Day. Department of Meteorology Director General Ali Abanda opened a meteorological exhibition held by the department at Amman Airport to mark this occasion. On display at the exhibition are weather measurement equipment, telecommunications equipment as well as weather satellite receiving stations. Dr. Abanda later distributed certificates to 12 participants from Kuwait and Jordan who attended a six-month training course in meteorology.

Safer roads for picnickers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lorries with a capacity exceeding two tonnes have been banned from travelling to the Jordan Valley through the Salt-Zay junction and the Naour-Um Al Bastin junction from eight until 10 in the morning on Fridays, according to a statement by the Public Security Department. The statement said that large lorries are also not permitted to travel uphill from Jordan Valley between four and eight in the evening on Fridays.

Arab legal official concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Mohammad Miko, the director general of the Arab centre for judicial and legal researches which was formed by the Arab justice ministers council, left Amman Sunday ending a several-day visit to Jordan. During his visit, Mr. Miko met with Minister of Justice Riyadh Al Shakra and a number of officials for talks on subjects related to the forthcoming meetings of the council which will be held in Rabat on April 14.

Jordan to attend non-aligned meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of non-aligned countries foreign ministers opening in New Delhi on April 14th, an official announcement here said Sunday, adding that Jordan's ambassador to India Jamal Khatat will attend the two day meeting. Jordan, according to the announcement, will also take part in the annual meetings of the Economic Commission of Western Asia (ECWA) due to open in Baghdad on April 19. Jordan will be represented at the five day ECWA meeting by a delegation led by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqat.

Geologists to convene in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the 7th Iraqi conference on geology which is to open in Baghdad on April 12. The five-day conference will discuss various working papers on Arab minerals including phosphates and crude oil as well as the raw minerals found in Arab states. Jordan will be represented by chairman of the Jordan Geological Society, Mr. Ali Abu Rahiba, who will lead Jordan's delegation to the conference.

Pakistani envoy hosts reception

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Ihsan Rasheed hosted a reception Sunday on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day. The reception was attended by senior Jordanian officials and heads of diplomatic missions in Amman.



CROWN PRINCE MEETS MINISTERS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday receives Malaysian Minister of Finance Daim Idris Zaimedine. The Crown Prince received various Arab and Asian ministers who are taking part in the 10th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which opened here on Saturday.

Sudan needs \$100m to offset deficit, provide services, finance minister says

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sudanese Minister of Finance Sayeed Teifour Sunday said that approximately \$100 million is needed immediately to offset Sudan's current budget deficit and to provide basic agricultural inputs for the season and medicine for the people.

Dr. Teifour, who is in Jordan to attend the meetings of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), added that Sudan will also have to adopt a short-term and a long-term economic policy in order to get through its economic crisis which he said was inherited from Numeiri's regime and exacerbated by drought and desertification problems.

A national conference on Sudan's economy was held recently to assess the situation with a view to arriving at strategic solutions to right the country's economy, Dr. Teifour told reporters at the end of the two-day conference.

A three-year economic plan, starting as of June 1, 1986, was prepared in the meetings and the plan's resolutions will be distributed to congressional, popular and party organisations throughout the country, continued Dr. Teifour. He expressed hope that Arab countries would give assistance to Sudan to help implement the plan, and to ultimately overcome the present economic crisis.

Dr. Teifour explained that the new Sudanese ruling military council has had to take strict measures in a bid to offset the accumulated deficit which resulted from "the misuse of funds and political corruption during the rule of president Jaafar Numeiri."

One of the measures, as explained by the minister, is the imposition of compulsory savings for workers in both the public and private sectors whose monthly

earnings exceed 150 Sudanese pounds. Five per cent of their wages will be put into savings accounts and will be given back to employees at the end of the year when the situation should have improved, added Dr. Teifour.

Sudan and the IDB have agreed terms to grant Sudan a total of \$1,148,628 Islamic dinars. (ID one approximately equal to one dollar) The agreement was signed in Amman during the IDB meetings.

External debts

Speaking about Sudan's external debts, which amount to \$9 billion, Dr. Teifour said that the funds had given to the previous regime which "misused them by channelling them into developing projects which failed to secure optimum benefits for the country." A total of \$261 million of the total figure is due for repayment to an international fund which granted Sudan \$1 billion in loans.

In reference to a recent decision by an international fund to stop its financial aid to Sudan, Dr. Teifour said that the move was "irrational and was not just."

He explained that the decision followed several months of extensive talks between the Sudanese government and the fund's officials but, although Sudan responded to most of the terms required, both parties failed to reach a compromise on the devaluation of the Sudanese pound, a precondition for the finalisation of the agreement.

The Sudanese pound, the minister continued, has previously been devalued several times over the years and therefore the Sudanese government deemed it preferable to embark on solving the economic structural problems and to create a suitable atmosphere for the government to adjust the economic situation. The fund's admin-

istration did not give due concern to the situation and considered that Sudan did not qualify for further loans, the minister said.

The decision undoubtedly affected economic reforms in Sudan and also affected relations in international cooperation linked to the fund, Dr. Teifour said.

Referring to the drought in Sudan, Dr. Teifour said that the situation has dramatically improved as rain fell abundantly after a year of drought. Sudan has almost overcome its drought problem and has started projects to rebuild houses for people who were hit by the drought but as yet there are some four million people in the southern parts of the country whose situation and living conditions have not improved because of the security situation, he continued.

Agricultural production

Dr. Teifour pointed out that the government still has not benefited from increased agricultural production as it lacks enough silos to store the produce. Moreover, there is still the problem of distribution in a large country like Sudan, he commented.

Commenting on Egyptian-Sudanese economic integration, Dr. Teifour said that discussions between the two countries had not dealt with economic actions during initial meetings but he added that later a special fund for the economic integration was founded. Although it has not yet started its operations, Dr. Teifour expressed hope that the fund would benefit both countries.

Speaking about the separatist movement in the South, Dr. Teifour said that the new government has always maintained peaceful dialogue in dealing with the rebels and that it considers the problem to be an internal issue.

IDB affiliated banks announce establishment of new federation

AMMAN (Petra) — The establishment of a federation grouping national institutions entrusted with financing development projects in countries which are members of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) was announced in Amman on Sunday.

Several behind the scene consultations on the sidelines of the IDB's 10th annual meeting, which ended in Amman on Sunday, paved the way for the establishment of the federation. Mr. Rajab Assad, the vice-president of the Industrial Development Bank, was appointed president of the newly-formed federation.

Mr. Assad said that the negotiations which preceded the federations' establishment chose the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah as the headquarters of the federation and he added that the paid up capital of the federation is \$154,000.

Mr. Assad also said that the federations' administrative body has been selected and includes representatives from Jordan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Sudan, Morocco, Egypt, Senegal and Malaysia. Malaysian representative to the federation, Mr. Abdul Aziz Kontagi, was appointed as the federation's secretary general. The federation is designed to launch financial activities and to encourage research programmes in banking and financing in accordance with Islamic principles and laws. The federation will also be concerned with developing revenues and providing facilities and training courses to promote the financing of development projects in Islamic nations, he continued.

The Islamic banks founded in

Arab and Islamic countries are all branches of the IDB which was established in 1975 to offer loans to Islamic nations and to consolidate economic development by helping to carry out social and economic projects in Muslim countries.

Mr. Assad said that the negotiations approved the federation's working plan for its first year and entrusted the administrative body with taking legislative measures to ensure the federations' success.

Acting Minister of Finance and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, in his speech to the federation, pointed out the importance of organising human resources to ensure the success of development projects in Islamic countries and stressed the importance of having "the right man in the right place."

"Developed nations have reached such a high standard in technological, scientific and socio-economic progress, which were all due to enormous and devoted efforts exerted by the concerned personnel in these countries," Dr. Khatib, who is a former governor of the IDB board of governors, said.

The minister said that reading widely and concentrating on carrying out designated duties were basic means to promote development.

IDB President Ahmad Moh-

ammad Ali in an address to the meeting voiced his pleasure at the establishment of the federation and said that this event marks the various efforts and forces which were behind its formation. He said that the IDB is ready to support the federation in order to allow it to meet its objectives.

Turkey's representative to the federation, in his speech, said that the establishment of the federation is a landmark and illustrates the good cooperation among IDB members. He also expressed hope that the federation will be able to fulfill its duties.

Mr. Kontagi thanked the federation's general assembly for appointing him as secretary general and he said that the union's goals will never be realised if it does not receive total support from IDB members.

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, president of the Kuwaiti finance house, thanked the IDB for the support it has given to the federation. Mr. Yassin said that at present there are more than 50 Islamic banks in the Islamic World which are carrying out development operations at a total cost of \$6,000 million.

Their success is inevitable since these Islamic banks carry out their transactions on the basis of Islamic Shariah, Mr. Yassin said, and he stressed that the Islamic countries will not progress unless their people follow Islamic doctrines. Mr. Yassin called for a review of Islamic banks' course of actions in order that the Muslims can practice their creeds in the areas of commerce, banking, investment and economy.

Lawzi returns from regional conferences on agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional conference held in Istanbul has urged Islamic nations to cooperate in exchanging agricultural products and to utilise the Islamic Development Bank's (IDB) system of financing foreign trade. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi said here Sunday.

Dr. Lawzi, who was speaking upon returning from the meeting organised by the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), said the conference also called on Islamic countries to cooperate in agricultural research and training at specialised centres.

According to Dr. Lawzi, the conference recommended that a regional research centre be established to offer training in by-product agriculture and to increase the exchange of information and data on this and other subjects. The conference also recommended that fishing industries be set up in Islamic states to help ensure food security, Dr. Lawzi added. He went on to say that the conference urged Islamic states to establish a joint company for the production of cereals and urged Islamic nations to cooperate in exploiting underground water reserves, to increase their efforts in animal husbandry, to introduce modern farm equipment and to use pesticides and fertilisers in order to increase production.

The conference, he added, recommended that a general survey of agricultural land in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip be conducted prior to carrying out projects in these areas and it also urged Arab states to facilitate the passage of agricultural products from the occupied Arab territories to markets in Islamic countries.

FAO conference

After the OIC meeting, Dr. Lawzi attended a conference held by the regional office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which, he said, passed several resolutions and endorsed a working paper on developing cereal production in the Near East region.

According to Dr. Lawzi, the regional meeting urged various institutions to step up their efforts in research work in order to increase the production of wheat, barley and maize.

The conference urged governments in the Near East to adopt a number of measures and to effectively use agricultural extension services. Controlling cereal quality and training farmers and other personnel on ways of increasing output were also suggested, Dr. Lawzi said. One of the working papers endorsed by the conference, he continued, was one of the role of women in food production, the need to involve women in training programmes and means to promote the role and living standards of women in rural regions.

Cabinet forms committee to run financial market

AMMAN (Petra) — A new committee has been formed to take charge of operations at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) in accordance with a cabinet decision.

The committee, which will have a three-year mandate, is chaired by AFM Director Hashem Al Sabbagh and groups representatives from the Central Bank of Jordan, the commercial banks, shareholding companies, money lending institutions and the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The cabinet also appointed Zuhair Asfour, Ma'moun Touqan and Walid Kassar, all businessmen in the private sector, to serve as members of the board of directors

of the Jordanian Ports Corporation. The appointment is for two years and takes effect immediately.

According to a cabinet statement, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour has been empowered to sign an agreement for a loan to Jordan from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to help carry out the Zarqa River Basin project.

The project entails building installations, developing pasture and forest land and improving agricultural roads in addition to reclaiming some 21,000 hectares and creating pastures for raising at least 85,000 head of sheep.

Delegates start arriving for symposium on Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Arab and Islamic countries and regional and international organisations are converging on Amman to take part in an international symposium on ending the Gulf war. The symposium is being organised jointly by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Ministry of Labour sources said that approximately 150 delegates are expected to attend the three day conference, due to open on Tuesday at the Amra Hotel in Amman.

The delegates will address themselves to the effects of the Gulf war on world security and peace

and the role which various labour organisations around the world can play to bring the conflict to an end. The economic, social and political effects of the ongoing war on the Gulf region and the rest of the world will be the theme of a main working paper prepared by ALO specialists.

Arab, Islamic and international personalities and representatives of the opposition in Iran will be present at the meetings. Among the first delegates to arrive for the meeting was Mr. Suheil Mohamamd Saleh, under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. More delegates are expected Monday.

Khayyat offers assistance to Maldives in Islamic affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has agreed to accept a number of students from the Maldives Islands to study Shariah (Islamic law) at Jordanian institutions and Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has agreed to pay for their courses. The announcement was made after a meeting between Minister of Awqaf Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and the Foreign Minister of the Maldives Fathallah Jamil who is now on a visit to Jordan.

Sheikh Khayyat said that his ministry will supply the Maldives with religious publications and copies of the Koran.

During the meeting Sheikh Khayyat was briefed about the conditions and activities of Islamic societies in the Maldives Islands. Sheikh Khayyat outlined Jordan's efforts to regain Al Aqsa Mosque and other holy places in the occupied territories and Jordan's attempts to stop Israel's repeated acts of aggression against Islamic holy sites. Sheikh Khayyat also spoke about his ministry's assistance to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule. The meeting was attended by several Awqaf Ministry officials.

Majali graduates police officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Nineteen police chiefs with ranks ranging from captain to major have completed an 11-week training course in investigation procedures, military training and special research work. The officers graduated at a ceremony held on Sunday was attended by Public Security Department Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Lt. Gen. Majali addressed the

graduates and called on them to put into use the skills they acquired during the course. He also praised the instructors' efforts. The director of the training institute made a speech in which he called for more support to police training institutes to enable them to carry out their duty.

Lt. Gen. Majali distributed diplomas and awards to the graduates at the ceremony which was attended by senior public security officers.

Planning ahead to cater for rising numbers of old people

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

This is the second of a two-part article on the facilities provided to old people in Jordan and suggestions how these services could be improved. The first part appeared in Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

AMMAN — Progress in health and living conditions have led to longer expected lifespan for most people in Jordan. The number of senior citizens estimated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for 1985 is 53,000 (3.4 per cent of the population). This figure is predicted to rise to 160,000 by the year 2000. Weakening of family ties has forced a lot of the elderly to turn to society to provide for their needs. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development, in coordination with voluntary organisations, offers institutions, a host/family project and direct aid. Institutions are left as a last resort due to their inability to provide a family atmosphere.

However, as the number of senior citizens increases and family ties weaken, institutions may have to become the foremost means of accommodating the elderly. Dr. Awni Sa'ad, a clinical psychiatrist, Mr. Fakrzi Bilbeisi, vice president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), and Mr. Rihab Qutnam, assistant director of Social Defence at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development gave their suggestions on how to cater for the needs of the elderly especially those in institutions, and the problems which arise from resettling and adapting to a new environment.

Catering for individuals

When planning senior citizens' homes, one must keep in mind that the homes must cater for individuals who need to lead an active life until the age of 75-80, and it is only the compulsory retirement age (60-65) which has forced them to "stop work," said Dr. Sa'ad.

Dr. Sa'ad suggests that the homes be pleasantly situated with both private and semi-private rooms so that the senior citizen will have his choice of privacy or companionship. The homes should provide good food, a library and, most importantly, day rooms which are nicely decorated and comfortably furnished.

A garden to which the elderly can tend is essential, as is the programme of activities arranged by the administration such as films and group outings. Emphasis should be placed on these recreational activities, said Dr. Sa'ad, because this is the time that senior citizens should do all the things they enjoy. Provisions should be made for them to have regular health care which includes mental care, he added.

Psychological problems, depression

Mr. Qutnam, stated that "50 per cent or more of the elderly in homes complain from psychological diseases". He continued to explain why: "They are put in beds, their eating and drinking times are regulated. They miss the family atmosphere, and even though the workers are nice, they cannot take the place of the family." Dr. Sa'ad added that a lot of senior citizens become depressed no matter how nice the hotel is and need lots of attention to help them settle in their new existence and lifestyle.

To help overcome the depression the elderly face, Mr. Qutnam suggests that voluntary organisations, university students and other individuals visit the homes and that radio and television could play an important role in encouraging people to visit the old-



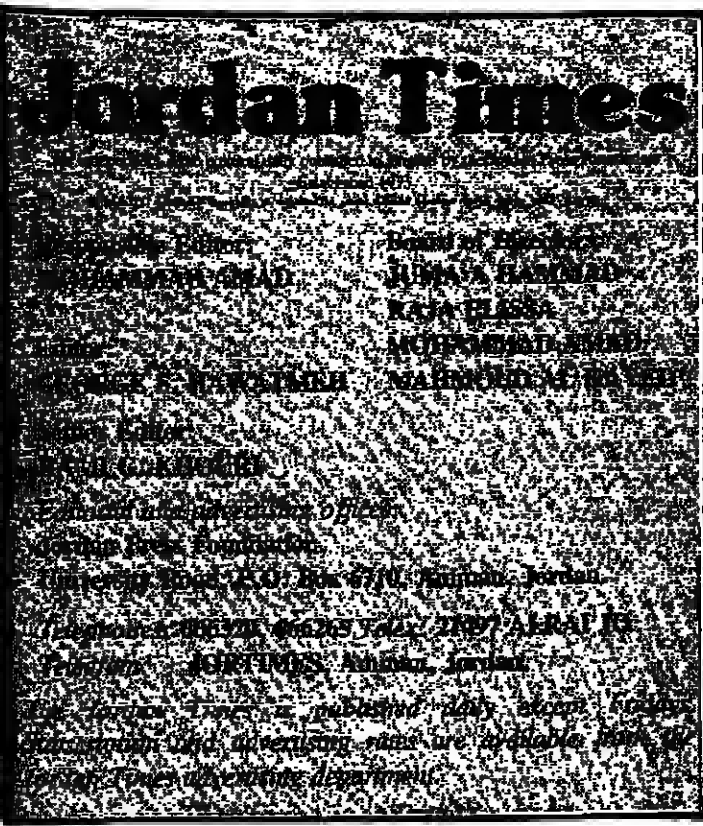
Weakening family ties, migration and emigration mean that a growing number of old people will need to rely on society and welfare organisations to provide them with accommodation, food and care in their old age (J.T. file photo).

edly. He said that food and sweets are often donated, but the elderly need more; contact with the outside and feeling that someone cares is most important.

Not all senior citizens require facilities as many continue to lead a full life even at the age of 80-85, if they are in good physical health. For the elderly who live at home or alone (by choice), but are ignored in a sense, Dr. Sa'ad recommends other kinds of facilities for them. He feels that each area should have some sort of club where these senior citizens can meet and exchange thoughts, ideas, and play games and do whatever they want to relieve the boredom which plagues many of the elderly living at home or alone.

Village for the elderly

The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has come up with an original way to accommodate the increasing number of senior citizens. Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times that GUVS has recently embarked on building a modern village for Jordanian senior citizens. "We believe it is our duty to provide a place for the elderly to live in respect and dignity," he said. The village will contain small, separate houses for those who



A long way to go

THE ISLAMIC BLOC is one of the richest among the world's economic and political groups. Yet many of its member nations in Asia and Africa live on or near the poverty line and remain susceptible to the effects of drought, desertification and famine. In an effort to grapple with the poverty question, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has been pumping capital into Islamic states to help finance economic and social projects to alleviate many sufferings and to pave the way for progress.

Over the past 10 years since its establishment, the IDB has no doubt helped quite a good number of Islamic communities, but reports submitted to the IDB's 10th conference in Amman indicate that this financial institution has a long way to go to meet the bare minimum of Islamic countries' needs for real development and progress.

Figures appearing in a report submitted by the IDB president reveal many facts about the bank's investments, revenues and loans. But these figures are unfortunately eclipsed by other facts and figures; it is really appalling to know that the rich Islamic bloc of 800 million population is still lagging far behind the developed nations. But perhaps the most worrying fact was that contained in His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's key-note address to the conference in which he noted that this rich Islamic bloc now suffers from an annual \$16 billion deficit in food production.

Needless to say that the delegates of IDB's 43 member nations have come to draw up a future strategy and to issue recommendations and resolutions. But the annual report and the speeches delivered during the sessions contained a good number of useful points for the conference to dwell on and examine in detail. For us, the gathering in Amman represents a happy event, not only because the IDB has just announced \$37 million in aid to Jordan but also because the conference offered a good chance to orient the delegates on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and urged them to extend all forms of assistance to the Arab people of Palestine, now suffering from the effects of prolonged Israeli occupation.

We hope the delegates will have their priorities right in their attempt to help the needy and oppressed and that they will also succeed in their endeavours to bring prosperity to the whole Islamic world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Muslims' responsibility

IN his address to the 10th conference of the Islamic Development Bank Prince Hassan was careful to refer to the grave situation in the occupied Arab territories and urged the Islamic nations to extend all possible help to the Arab people under Israeli rule. Prince Hassan also called the attention to Israel's evil intentions and its drive to Judaize the Arab territory and evict the Arab people from their homeland. He stressed that the Arab people are waging a just struggle in the face of the Israeli occupation and oppression, and said that all economic and financial help should be channelled to the Arab people to enable them to confront the challenge. Prince Hassan was careful to point out that the Israel threatens the Arab as well as the Islamic countries, and that it is incumbent upon the Islamic nation as a whole to stand together and bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. He said the Islamic nation possesses the means for providing economic help to our brothers in the occupied Arab lands and this nation should shoulder its responsibility in this direction if the Muslims are to safeguard their national and religious interests.

Al Dustour: Israel's preparation for war

THE Israeli press is nowadays full of articles and reports about discussions, all tackling the possibility of an outbreak of a new Arab-Israeli war. Even the foreign correspondents are now asking the question of when will this war happen. We do not want to be carried away by these reports but would like to point out that the Israelis have a strategy in their war with the Arabs, namely never to allow the Arabs to achieve military parity with the Zionist state. The talk about a possible war could have stemmed from the constant reports in the Israeli press about the Arabs' recent acquisition of new types of advanced weapons. This question about the weapons and the Arabs trying to achieve a strategic balance with the Israeli enemy is therefore on the minds of the Israeli leaders and Israeli people, and could mean that the Israeli government is paving the way for launching a new aggression on the Arabs to abort their attempts to catch up with the Israelis in terms of armaments. Above all, the recent statements by a number of Israeli army generals and the open threats by Israeli politicians bear clear indications that the Israelis intend to launch a new war on the Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: Responsibility towards the oppressed

THE meeting of governors of Islamic Development Banks at a short distance from Jerusalem and the holy places is a very significant gesture on the part of the Islamic nation. It indicates clearly that the Muslim people rally behind their brothers in the occupied Arab lands and are determined to extend help to bolster their steadfastness in the face of Israel's measures. In an address to the conference, Prince Hassan reminded the delegates of their duty towards their brothers in the occupied lands and their responsibility to find means of safeguarding the religious and holy places. The Islamic bloc with its vast resources and wealth will have great weight in the world once this bloc decides to be united and firm in its stand and demands. This Islamic bloc can have a great power and can use this power and its economic means for the benefit of the Islamic people who include the Palestinians under Israeli rule. This Islamic gathering should also give attention to the less developed and less fortunate Muslim people who suffer from drought, famine and food shortages. Prince Hassan's speech to the conference pointed to these issues and others which the delegates ought to take into consideration during their deliberations.

OPEC's decline poses new challenges to region

By Riad Khouri

THE continuing decline in OPEC's role in the international oil market and the parallel collapse in prices of crude promise to bring economic upheaval to the Middle East. Whether a country is a producer like Kuwait or an importer such as Jordan, the oil drama and its consequences may have devastating effects in our region. As the income of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states contracts, trade, aid, investments and transfers across the Middle East shrink, ending a decade of boom and heralding a long and deep recession. And things are going to look a lot worse before they start getting better.

The recent talks in Geneva seem to have done little to bring OPEC closer to a policy that will stop the erosion of prices. The organisation's members were not even divided into blocs, with every nation appearing to go its own way. Five non-OPEC states attended the meeting, underlying the increasing loss of control of the organisation over the international petroleum market. These as well as the thirteen OPEC countries bickered and blamed each other for the current oil debacle. Had even more states attended, as had been expected by some, the scene would not doubt have been even less amicable. The simple fact is that OPEC no longer controls such a large share of

world production as the table illustrates.

Major Oil Producers, 1985 (annual crude output in millions of tons)

U.S.S.R.	596
U.S.A.	492
Saudi Arabia	165
Mexico	151
Britain	129
China	125
Iran	110
Venezuela	89
Canada	85
Nigeria	73
Iraq	70
U.A.E.	60
Indonesia	60
Kuwait	50
Libya	50
Egypt	44
Norway	38
India	31

In 1985 only two of the top seven producers were organisation members, and four OPEC states (Qatar, Algeria, Gabon and Ecuador) not even figure on this list. Of course last year was exceptional in that the Saudis produced much less than they had been annually over the past decade or so, thus allowing Norway and Egypt to become important minor producers. For several years now Saudi Arabia

has been telling other countries that it is not going to support forever the price of oil by cutting its own output. But since the rest of OPEC continued to maintain production (sometimes against group agreements) and non-member states felt no need, desire or obligation to show production discipline, the Saudis hit back. Expanding output, they managed to push the oil price down quite dramatically in the past few months, hoping to bring other producers back into line. In the words of Die Zeit's Peter Christ, "Saudi Arabia has taken on all the other oil-producing countries. The kingdom has translated into action the threats made so frequently in the past and which no one believed." The glut of oil the Saudis have purposely released seems to be directed against Britain and Norway as well as against the kingdom's partners in OPEC. Since 1981 the British have increased their production from 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) to around 2.5 million. The British government cannot formally stipulate to the oil companies operating in the North Sea how much oil they should extract. In the most recently developed fields, licenses permit oil to be pumped at the maximum rate for around five years so considerable capital investment can be amortized. Any way, the price of oil would have to

fall a lot further before North Sea production is affected. According to Christ "95 per cent of the oil platforms in the North Sea can continue to function even if the oil price were to fall to around the 3-dollar-a-barrel mark." So the chances of OPEC winning a price war against Britain and Norway are not good. Oil is not as important a factor in these two countries' economies as in the OPEC states. Petroleum production only accounts for about five per cent of U.K. GNP. On the other hand a lot of OPEC countries are almost totally dependent on oil, and price drops hit them a lot harder than their European and other competitors.

So thanks to a divided OPEC, the world's net oil importers are enjoying a tremendous windfall that looks like the reverse of what happened in the 70's. Stock markets in the rich, industrialised states are booming, and growth figures are being revised sharply upwards in the U.S. and other major economies. With the exception of some American oil-producing states and similar pockets in other countries, the fall in the price of crude promises to fuel a strong expansion in the West and Japan. Meanwhile, OPEC members and their cousins in the Third World suffer and go into depression. Is there a way out for

OPEC? Probably not. The organisation in its present form seems to be finished. Adding such countries as Angola, Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia and Oman (the five which attended the Geneva meetings) to the organisation will make it even more unwieldy and less likely to act in a cohesive fashion.

Fortunately, this demise need not hit the Middle East as badly as some other parts of the world. For all of their absurd and sometimes bloody bickering, the states of our region have a lot in common. Insofar as this is true, there may be scope for a closer cooperation among the Arab oil producers. A fair amount of this already goes on under the aegis of OAPEC (the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries). With the decline and fall of OPEC, our regional grouping may eventually emerge as a force on the international oil market. The reserves controlled by the OAPEC states are enormous and they now have a lot of experience in many aspects of the petroleum industry. Linked by language, history, religion, geography and a lot of problems, OAPEC countries should be able to cooperate much more closely than such strange bedfellows as, say, Venezuela and Gabon. If such cooperation comes about, it will have to take into account

the changed energy situation in the world. Oil is no longer king as it was in the 70's, and its gradual replacement by nuclear and other sources of fuel is bound to go on. Instead, oil has to be considered in its role as a raw material for petrochemicals. An amazing variety of these is being produced, increasingly in the Middle East, and there seems to be no limit to the number of things which can be made out of crude oil. Burning the stuff is no longer a viable proposition, even at today's low prices.

Such a transformation in the use of petroleum is going to take a lot of local research and development as well as a change in attitudes among the people and governments of the Middle East. This is going to mean a much greater role for education to allow the transfer of technology in the field of petrochemicals as well as the development of techniques locally. Jordan could have a very large role to play in this process. With one of the Middle East's highest levels of education, Jordanians are ideally placed to lead the technology transfer process, without which our region's economic future will be, at best, uncertain.

Riad Khouri is a Beirut-based financial consultant. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis deepens, peace hopes fade

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

COLOMBO — With peace talks stalled and a ceasefire in tatters, the Sri Lankan government is building up its firepower and apparently counting on the military to put an end to the Tamil separatist insurgency.

The army's thrust against the rebels has switched from the north of the Indian Ocean island to the eastern region, which local residents and visitors say resembles a war zone.

They accuse the army of indiscriminate killing and harassment of Tamil civilians.

Sri Lanka's giant neighbour India, with a population of 50 million, Tamil's just 20 million, across the Palk Strait, last month accused Colombo of following a policy "with elements of 'genocide'."

The accusation stung President Junius Jayewardene's government, which alleges that India permits Sri Lankan Tamil militants to train in its southern Tamil Nadu state and smuggle weapons and arms into the island's Tamil-dominated north.

Jayewardene has said the militants are a military problem which will be dealt with within a year. Defence analysts and diplomats in Colombo, however, do not believe the 12,000-strong Sri Lankan army yet has the training, the equipment and the manpower to defeat the rebels.

"We are in for a long period of stalemate with lots of violence," said one defence analyst.

"The Sri Lankan army is not to terrorise and dislodge the Tamil population and to upset the ethnic balance in the east," militant leader Anton Balasingham told Reuters in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state, where five main rebel groups have their headquarters.

"That is a lot of nonsense," Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudu retorted. He told Reuters the militants were trying to drive Sinhalese out of the eastern region to back their claim for a separate state in the north and east known as Eelam.

Visitors report that vigorous cordon-and-search tactics, as well as reprisals against civilians after rebel attacks on the army, have spread fear among Tamils, some of whom have fled north to the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna in India.

"Any Tamil male between the ages of 13 and 40 walking around is likely to be picked up by the army and interrogated or worse," said a rebel in Madras who recently fled the area. Foreign journalists are not allowed to visit the east to check the claims.

India told the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva this month that the "blatant killing" of civilians in ground, naval and air attacks was beginning to look like victimisation of the Tamils by the security forces.

The mainly-Hindu Tamils represent less than 18 per cent of the country's 15 million population, which is predominantly Sinhalese Buddhist.

The history of the teardrop-shaped island has been marked by Sinhalese suspicion of the northern Hindu "invader" and frequent inter-communal fighting. Most Tamils came to the north of the island centuries ago. The British shipped in others in the 19th century to work on tea estates in the central hills.

Tamils, complaining of discrimination in land, jobs and language, first launched a separatist campaign 10 years ago.

The turning point for the militants came in July 1983 when a guerrilla attack against the army triggered anti-Tamil riots in Colombo in which more than 400 Tamils were killed. Thousands of youngsters swelled the militants' ranks to about 10,000.

Since then the ethnic conflict has cost more than 3,000 lives and prompted some 120,000 Tamils to flee to south India where they are housed in government camps.

Mediation efforts last year by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi brought peace talks and a ceasefire between the main Tamil groups and the security forces. But the talks failed and the ceasefire existed largely only on paper.

The militants insisted on autonomy for the north, which they virtually control, and also for the east where Tamils form 40 per cent of the population, the largest single ethnic group. Sinhalese and Muslim Moors account equally for the rest.

Colombo rejected the demand for a separate state and offered limited devolution.

Each side now accuses the other of using the ceasefire as a ploy to show the outside world its willingness to negotiate while all the time building up its military strength.

Since last November, say moderate Sinhalese and foreign political observers, the hawks in the Sri Lankan army and political establishment seem to have gained the upper hand.

The air force has begun using newly-acquired Italian-made Marchetti aircraft to bomb what the government calls guerrilla hideouts in the north. Residents have reported civilian casualties after the attacks.

The security forces, some trained by Israelis and by former members of Britain's elite Special Air Services (SAS), have also stepped up helicopter attacks.

"In the north they rarely move outside of their camps because they know we can hit them with landmines," one rebel said. "That is why they are now using air attacks."

Foreign diplomats and many moderate Sinhalese see the attacks as evidence that Colombo is now committed to a military solution, despite denials by minister Athulthumudu.

Last Saturday the security forces suspended air attacks for a week, and Athulthumudu said they would stop altogether if the rebels stopped bringing men and material from India.

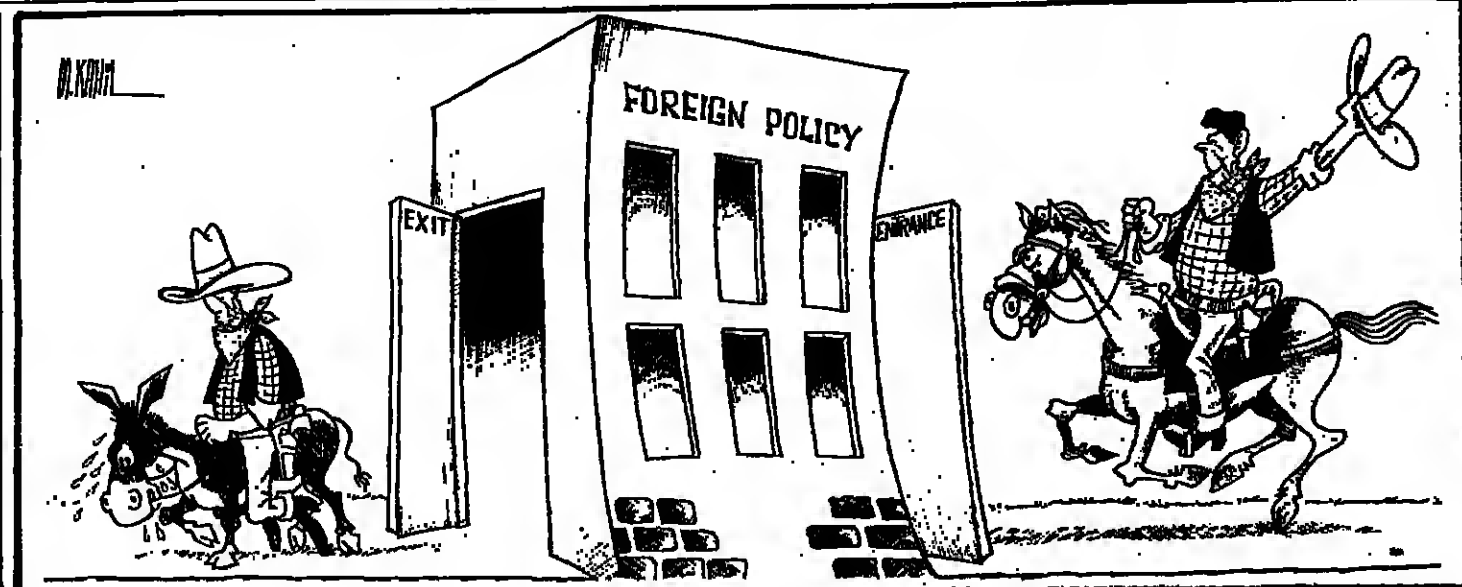
"There is no military solution to this problem," the minister told Reuters, "but we have no alternative but to counter terrorism."

One moderate said: "The government does not seem interested in winning the hearts and minds of Sri Lankan Tamils."

"There is no sign of the government saying to the Tamils this is your country, you have a stake in it," said a Western diplomat.

"The solution to this conflict lies in the hands of the Sri Lankan government," Indian High Commissioner (ambassador) J.N. Dixit told Reuters. "Terrorism per se is not the problem, it is the symptom."

"Sri Lanka has to decide whether it is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious country or whether it is a Sinhalese-Buddhist society where Tamils have no place."



THE significance of March 23 lies in the monumental fact that this day, forty-six years ago, the Muslim League of the Asian Sub-continent formally asserted — at a two-day meeting of the All India Muslim League at Lahore their claim to be a nation by themselves — a nation, separate and distinct from the rest. And on that basis, they called for the establishment of a national homeland in their majority areas in the Sub-continent. The basis of the claim was succinctly summed up by Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founding father, when he said:

"We are a nation with our own distinctive culture and civilisation, language and literature, art and architecture, names and nomenclature, sense of values and proportions legal laws and moral code, customs and calendar, history and tradition, aptitudes and ambitions; in short, we have our own distinctive outlook on life and of life. By all canons of international law, we are a nation."

Although this was the first time that the Muslim claim to separate nationhood and to a separate Muslim homeland in the Asian Sub-continent was put forward in explicit and cogent terms, the idea of separate Muslim nationhood had ever remained central, though in a latent form, to Muslim thought-currents and sensibility in that part of Asia.

The birthday of Pakistan

By Sharif-Al-Mujahid

However, it was Jinnah's powerful advocacy of the case for Pakistan and his brilliant strategy in the delicate negotiations that followed the formulation of the Pakistan demand, that made Pakistan inevitable.

British reaction

While the first concrete British reaction to the Muslim demand came in the form of Cripps proposals of 1942 (which conceded the principle of self-determination to provinces on a territorial basis), Gandhi, the foremost leader of the Indian nationalist movement, would only condescend to assign the Muslims a status no better than that of a "body of converts," and stoutly refused to recognise their right to separate nationhood. By 1944, it was clear that the central issue in Indian politics was nothing but Pakistan and that it could no more be put under the rug by either the British or the Hindus.

The elections of 1945, were "a triumphant vindication of Jinnah's claim to represent the Muslims." The League not only captured all the Muslim seats in the Central Assembly but also secured 90 per cent of all Muslim seats in the provinces.

Cabinet Mission's Plan

The state was now set for a final constitutional settlement. A Cabinet Mission came down to India (23rd March 1946) to devise, in consultation with the various political parties, a constitution-making machinery, and to set up a popular interim government. The Mission made its own proposals in May 1946. Known as the *Cabinet Mission Plan*, these proposals stipulated a limited centre, supreme only in foreign affairs, defence and communications, and three autonomous groups of provinces, two of them having Muslim majority in the north-west and the north-east, and the third one having a Hindu majority comprising the Indian mainland.

The Muslim League, guided by Jinnah, accepted the plan. It was the Congress and its leadership that failed to accept it and thus missed the opportunity of sharing power equitably in the South Asian Sub-continent.

The impasse thus created was finally sought to be overcome by the British decision to quit India by June 1948, a plan was somehow devised which called for the partition of the Sub-continent on the basis of the "Muslim" and "non-Muslim" majority areas.

The plan was announced on 3

June 1947 and was duly accepted by the three parties to the Indian problem — viz., the Congress, the League and the Sikhs. August 14-15, 1947, was fixed the date for the transfer of power.

Birth of Pakistan

August 14, 1947, was Pakistan's date with destiny. On that day, the British Viceroy Lord Mountbatten formally transferred power to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on behalf of His Majesty's Government. In his reply, the Quaid-i-Azam recapitulated the sentiments set forth in the King's message which Mountbatten had delivered, and reminded the new-born nation of the "great responsibilities" that lay ahead. And as a symbol of their new-found freedom fluttered atop the Assembly building the newly designed Pakistan flag — the crescent-and-star spangled green of Muslim independence.

The next day, August 15, Jinnah was sworn in as the first Governor-General of Pakistan at Karachi, followed by the swearing-in of the first cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, till then the General Secretary of the All India Muslim League.

Thus, the dream state of Pakistan had not only been born, but the man who had played the key role in causing its birth, was there on hand to preside over its destinies during the crucial period of its birth-pangs.

President will need skilful touch to govern with right

By Harry Dunphy
The Associated Press

PARIS — President Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist who will have to govern with a conservative premier, has served notice he will not become a figurehead when appears only on ceremonial occasions.

Mitterrand, who turns 70 in October, said during the campaign for Sunday's National Assembly elections that if the left lost, he would continue to play a major role in setting foreign and defence policies, two areas in which presidents of the Fifth Republic have always been pre-eminent.

The two major conservative parties and their smaller allies won a bare majority of the 577 seats in the National Assembly in the election.

A wily veteran of the revolving governments of France's Fourth Republic, Mitterrand has demonstrated many times that he is the master of political manoeuvre with whom the conservatives must reckon.

He has said he intends to remain in power for the last two years of his term even though the conservatives control the parliament.

But if the rightist leaders start quarrelling Mitterrand could resign.

Mitterrand's aides say he loves a fight and is at his best in moments of adversity. For 23 years he struggled against what he called the conservative dictatorship of Charles de Gaulle and his two successors, Georges Pompidou and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Then, 16 years after he forced de Gaulle into a runoff in one presidential election and seven years after he fell to Giscard d'Estaing by about 425,000 votes in another, Mitterrand got his chance in May 1981.

Following an early series of costly social programmes, Mitterrand realised he could not spend his way back to prosperity. He was forced to devalue the French franc three times and institute economic austerity.

Faced with declining purchasing power, higher taxes and pessimistic forecasts for the immediate future, the French public responded by according him at one point the lowest popularity rating of any president in the Fifth Republic.

Mitterrand gave the Communists a role in his government, partly in repayment of a political

debt but also in an effort to solidify the forces of the left while putting the Communists where he could keep an eye on them.

The Communists left the government in July 1984 and watched as the Socialists became the single largest party in the country.

Mitterrand was born Oct. 26, 1916, in Jarnac in the Charente region of western France, one of eight children of a stationmaster for the national railroad who later inherited a prosperous vineyard business.

He went to Paris in 1934 and earned degrees in law and letters. In 1938, he was drafted.

Mitterrand was wounded and captured by the Germans during their invasion of May 1940. He escaped from a Nazi POW camp and made his way back to France, where he formed a resistance group.

It was also during his resistance days that he met a young woman named Danielle Gouze, whom he married on Oct. 28, 1944. They had two children, Christophe and Gilbert.

Over a 10-year period, Mitterrand held a series of government posts ranging from minister of war veterans to minister of interior and minister of justice. In 1958 he lost his seat in the

Chamber of Deputies under the tidal wave of de Gaulle's return to power. Mitterrand contested the 1965 presidential election against de Gaulle. He fired the president into an embarrassing runoff, which de Gaulle won.

The Socialist Party, of which Mitterrand still was not a member, went into decline after the 1965 elections and even failed to make the runoff in the 1969 voting to pick a successor for de Gaulle, who had resigned.

At that low point, Mitterrand joined the Socialist Party, quickly became its secretary-general and put together a new organisation that took in smaller leftist parties. A year later the Socialist and Communist parties agreed on a common programme, and with the backing of the Communist, Mitterrand nearly upset Giscard d'Estaing in 1974.

But in 1981, he went on to defeat the incumbent president by a 51.75 per cent to 48.24 per cent margin.

In legislative elections a few weeks later, the Socialists swept to an overwhelming victory in the parliament, putting the left solidly in power for the first time since the Fifth Republic was created in 1958.

Out of Africa versus Prizzi's Honour in Oscar race

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood tradition favours Meryl Streep and "Out of Africa," but the betting is on the black mafia comedy "Prizzi's Honour" to scoop up the Oscars Monday night before an audience expected to top a billion.

Every chauffeur-driven limousine — at an Oscar night price of \$500 plus tips — has been snatched up, popular hairdressers are jammed with bookings and the searchlights are in place for Hollywood's biggest night of the year.

Major studios have spent up to \$1 million each promoting their films with advertisements in film industry newspapers, private screenings and mailing of books and records of their films.

Winning will make it all worthwhile. An Oscar for best picture can mean an extra \$5 to \$15 million at the box office, according to film industry analysts.

An Oscar also ensures wide publicity. Spokesmen for the ceremony said it will eventually be seen on television by a billion people in 86 countries, apart from the United States.

Many film experts believe the conservative Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, composed of 4,223 members of the film industry, will keep to its liking for stately, non-controversial epics and vote heavily for the \$30 million "Out of Africa," the story of Danish aristocrat Karen Blixen's love for Kenya of 1914 and about the men in her life.

"Out of Africa" could bring a third Oscar to Streep for her role as Blixen.

The film and "The Colour Purple," the story of a black woman's attempts to overcome her brutalising marriage to a widower in the American south, led the field in nominations with 11 each, including, in both cases, best picture.

But Las Vegas-made "Prizzi's

Honour," about a love affair between professional killers, is the 6-5 favourite to win the Oscar for best picture.

The gambling city's odds, set this year by the Frontier gambling hotel, also made one of the film's stars, Jack Nicholson, director John Huston and supporting act-

ress Anjelica Huston 6-5 favourites to win their categories.

Victories would be a "family" affair. Anjelica Huston is John Huston's daughter and Nicholson's longtime companion.

"I go through my accepting speech late at night, in the quietness of my bedroom when the lights are out," she said.

Geraldine Page, the mother superior in "Agnes of God," is considered by a number of film critics a strong favourite to win the Oscar for best actress after being nominated seven times before.

Seventy-five year-old Don Ameche is a sentimental favourite to win the award for best supporting actor for his role in the science fiction film, "Cocoon." But Austrian actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is also considered a strong contender for his role of Streep's philandering husband in "Out of Africa."

"My first nomination for an Oscar came as a complete surprise to me," said Ameche, in the midst of a second film career after a 12-year absence from the screen. "I didn't believe I was even a consideration."

"I'm nervous," Brandauer admitted. "It's not like sports where the best wins. Oscars are given by people and people, who have their own opinions, make mistakes."

The academy snubbed Steven Spielberg, the film industry's biggest money-making director, when it failed to nominate him for "The Colour Purple" and some people who have made a study of the academy believe the feeling could have spread to the film in the voting for the winners.

Spielberg, chosen best director by the Directors Guild of America this year, has never been accepted — along with Woody Allen — as a member of the Hollywood establishment.



John Huston



Klaus Maria Brandauer



Meryl Streep holds her People's Choice award for favourite motion picture actress at Santa Monica, California, March 11. She also shared the award for best all-round female entertainer with country singer Barbara Mandrell.

Spielberg's money-making films, such as "Jaws" and "E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial," were dismissed by many academy members as children's films.

But Spielberg could still receive an Oscar Monday night. He is listed as one of the four producers of "The Colour Purple" and could receive an Oscar for best picture. "I will be in the audience," Spielberg said. "Nothing could keep me away."

Whoopi Goldberg, a comedienne making her film debut as the downtrodden wife in "The Colour Purple," may have upset some academy members by appearing on countless television talk shows to promote the film and her nomination for best actress.



Jack Nicholson

Monumental Islamic calligraphy displayed in U.S.

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

PHILADELPHIA — Even a city transit strike did not deter members of Philadelphia's arts, academic and medical community from turning out to see the city's first glimpse of India's "Monumental Islamic Calligraphy," displayed at the University Museum of Archaeology/Anthropology on March 18.

More than 30 estampages, or paper impressions, of calligraphic inscriptions taken from some of India's most important and famous monuments of the Sultanate and Mughal periods (1150-1750 A.D.) are hanging in the Sharpe Gallery through April 27. Dr. A.Z. Desai, former director of the Archaeological Survey of India, called them "the most important decorative element in Indian Islamic architecture."

In the exhibition catalogue, "Monumental Islamic Calligraphy from India," Desai expressed it this way: "Aside from their obvious bearing on the history of Islamic architecture in India, inscriptions also provide useful information for the assessment of the literary contribution made by India to Persian language and literature in both the Sultanate and Mughal periods."

The Persian and Arabic script offer a wealth of information on the politics, culture and religion of medieval India. Only 50 Indian calligraphers have been identified through their signatures to date.

There are four major Indian styles of calligraphy on display: Kufi, Nashi, Thuluth and Nasta'iq. The samples — more than 30 — are drawn from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. All are on loan from the archives of the Archaeological Survey of India.

The rubbings are drawn from tombs, forts, mosques, seminaries, palaces, caravanserais, gateways, and fountains. All are in the United States for the first time through the coordination of Wayne Begley, Professor of Indian and Islamic Art at the University of Iowa, as part of the Festival of India. The exhibition is designed to illustrate that calligraphy, in the world of Islam, is the greatest form of artistic expression and to expose people to the beauty of these architectural inscriptions.

Mary Martin said it is important to learn about the "Islamic heritage in India." Martin is currently part of Middle East Centre's outreach programme at the Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania designed for high school students in the Philadelphia school system. A current project highlights "The Golden Age of Islam."

American calligrapher and scholar Mohammed Zakariya said, "It is interesting to see what the Indians have done" with the estampages. Some of the inscriptions, Zakariya said, border on "folk calligraphy" while others, such as the Koranic inscription from the Tomb of Sufi saint Khairi Allah from Bidar, are examples of "high art." He said he thought the exhibition showed that calligraphy can "take all different forms" and that the artist can draw "a lot of satisfaction" from the craft.

Another American calligrapher, Stuart Thomas, demonstrated his craft in conjunction with the exhibition. Thomas learned the art while growing up in Iran and noted the most difficult part of calligraphy is that "it has to be planned very carefully in advance." He stressed that calligraphy as an art form "is very much alive."

"It is amazing how curves and forms just seem to come out of the end of the brush," said Museum Director Dr. Robert Dyson. Ame-

ricans gave up penmanship "a long time ago in this country," Dyson said, and they "should realise how important calligraphy is, especially in the countries of Asia." He said, "The incorporation of calligraphy into architecture is very interesting to observe."

Dr. Krishna Lahiri, who is an Indian tea importer, said she thought it was a good idea to have a calligrapher on hand. Lahiri — who is active with Pragati Inc., a Bengali cultural association in Philadelphia — said she noticed immediately how "many" of the estampages were from West Bengal. She said she found those to be the most "intricate" on display.

There is, for example, a black stone panel from the 15th century palace in Guat (West Bengal) standing at the beginning of the exhibition. The panel, from the reign of Barabek Shah, is inscribed with a verse in Arabic and bordered by carved rosette patterns and other flowers. It is the only calligraph on display which is not a rubbing as it is part of the museum's permanent collection.

Renata Holod, who is curator of the Sharpe Gallery's showing and Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at the University of Pen-

sylvania, said this exhibition presents "very different aspects of India." Holod said Americans viewing the collection would learn just how beautiful the calligraphy is from the estampages on display and realise that the inscriptions are building decorations.

Holod said the inscriptions have symbolic meaning illustrated by the choice of a particular Koranic verse, for example. She said even the omission of a particular passage or the manipulation of titles can be meaningful. The extent of a flattering eulogy of a ruler can also throw light on history, she said.

"We need to mix them for... social and political history," Holod said. Sometimes the inscriptions on tombs or buildings, she pointed out, maybe the "only place a person will be mentioned." The names of women also frequently show up in the calligraphy. Holod said, because they were active patrons of buildings.

Indian music was supplied by Lenny Seidman on the tabla and Andrian L'armand on violin. Both are regulars at the Indian Palace restaurant which catered the event. A video on calligraphy was also available for those wishing for more historical detail.

Philadelphia is the last stop in

the U.S. for the travelling exhibition. As part of the Festival of India, it made stops at Rice University in Houston; Harvard University in Boston; Ohio State University in Columbus; and the University of Iowa in Iowa City. At the conclusion of its Philadelphia showing the exhibition will return to India where it will also travel.

Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Leonard Roasberg wrote of the exhibition, "You can see examples of excellent writing... although you may not be able to read them."

Those who have the opportunity to see this collection, which is rich in ornamentation, prose and poetry may recall the words of Persian calligrapher Mir 'Ali Harawi in 1556 when he wrote: "O calligrapher, as long as thy pen continues to work rainbows, it is fitting if Form proclaims superiority over Meaning."

But Professor Begley summed it up this way: "The often obscure historical events and personages mentioned in the inscriptions may be of greatest interest to scholars, but the beauty and majesty of the calligraphy — its form if not its meaning — should be comprehensible to everyone." — U.S. Information Agency.

EEC faces a technological headache

The EEC wants to advise member governments how far and in what way they can subsidise civil research and development in the area of technology. Interpretation is a messy problem and the Commission is not even certain what it is trying to police. Paul Cheeseright outlines the complexities.

BRUSSELS — The drive to strengthen the technological base of Europe — now next to godliness in the canon of the Community — is forcing the European Commission to define how competitive the competition regulations ought to be.

Its latest step in a long-running exercise of interpretation will be to publish soon a set of guidelines on how far and in what way governments will be permitted to subsidise civil research and development.

For the Commission, charged under the Treaty of Rome setting up the Community to act as competition policeman, this is a difficult and messy area.

To start with, the Commission is not certain exactly what it is policing. It believes that there has been a qualitative change in the nature of subsidies offered by governments over the last five or six years. Government support has shifted away from a narrow concern to revitalise declining sectors and is increasingly being scattered across a broad range of high-technology industries.

But governments of the Ten, now the Twelve, have not been better than patchy in meeting their obligations to inform the Commission of the subsidies they are paying. So the Commission, trying to grasp the situation, will start

forming an inventory of subsidies as soon as the new guidelines are published.

It is doubtful whether such an inventory will ever be published in detailed form. The Commission does not want to fuel U.S. accusations of heavy subsidisation in the Community, nor does it want to give political levers to those who receive small subsidies so they might press for more.

There is no uniform pattern of official research and development (R & D) spending in the Community. In 1984, national budget appropriations for R & D added up to Ecu31.07 billion (U.S.\$33 billion). But the percentage of GDP (gross domestic product) taken up by publicly funded R & D ranged from 0.24 in Greece to 1.45 in France.

The second point of difficulty for the Commission is the nature of the Treaty of Rome itself. The Treaty has a general ban on subsidies but permits exceptions where "they are intended to facilitate the development of certain activities or certain regions." The exceptions, however, should not distort trade.

So there is a balance: is the damage of subsidies less harmful than the damage of not giving them? In the end, the judgment is political rather than doctrinal. If it is political, then it is a juggling act.

The general political line is clear. The guidelines, sponsored by Mr. Peter Sutherland, the commissioner for competition, state: "The aim of competition policy is to improve the international competitiveness of Community industry." Therefore the rules have to be applied in a way which encourages cooperation in spreading new technology.

That means general approval for R & D subsidies, but not for blank cheques. The guidelines serve notice that each case will be considered individually.

The approach is that basic industrial research can attract more subsidy than applied R & D. And by "basic," the Commission means up to the stage of the construction of the first prototype. After that, concern about trade distortions becomes more acute.

Because this is a juggling act, however, the approach is not absolutely cut and dried. If there are cases of state funding which have an special economic importance, or where they are directed at Community projects, or involve small and medium-size companies, then the rules can be bent a bit further.

Generally, according to the guidelines, the subsidy should not be worth more than half the gross cost of a project. This is already a benchmark figure for Community funding of Community projects: companies are expected to pay as well.

The closer a project is to the market place, the less should be the extent of the subsidy. "The Commission in its examination and evaluation of national proposals will look in principle for progressively lower levels of aid," say the guidelines.

The Commission is relaxed about the way subsidies are paid

— grants, soft loans, guarantees, tax concessions and so on — but, and here the notification question comes up again, it certainly wants to know beforehand of any projects where the total costs is Ecu20 million or more.

Eligible costs for subsidising — the costs the Commission will add up when assessing the value of a subsidy — include those for personnel, materials, instruments, land, equipment, consultancy services and overheads incurred directly as a result of the R & D.

The keynote of the guidelines, however, is flexibility. In its own jargon, the Commission definitions are "indicative not normative."

It is clear that the Commission is not going to turn down state-funded R & D projects. It has never done so. What it will do is to temper the conditions of the subsidies from time to time.

Last year, for example, it approved the U.K.'s £350 million (\$507 million) Alvey programme virtually on the nod, but obtained changes in a West German micro-electronic programme.

In the latter case, it argued that subsidies for research in software at major companies were not justified because the work planned was normal company activity. And it obtained from the German authorities an undertaking that the subsidies would go only to smaller companies which otherwise might not have done the work at all.

The only case it is now working on involves Dutch and German subsidies for a joint Philips-Siemens development of a megachip. The Commission has called for more information before making up its mind whether the Treaty of Rome can accommodate the subsidies — Financial Times feature.

Japanese women lag behind in perfume use

By Ruriko Horie

TOKYO — While Tokyo has become a major centre of global fashion trends, the French claim that Japanese women are still well behind their sisters around the world in one aspect — perfume.

West Germany, Italy, England and the United States are the top four importers of French perfume in that order. Japan ranks ninth after Saudi Arabia. In terms of per capita consumption, eight in every 10 French women wear perfume while in Japan the proportion is one in 10.

Frustrated leaders of the French perfume industry have staged promotion campaigns and organised seminars in Japan for the past two years. Their efforts have met some success. However, any dramatic surge in perfume consumption here seems unlikely in the near future. There appears to be clear cultural differences between the French and Japanese concept of feminine refinement.

"Both women and men in Japan tend to frown upon scents that are too assertive and obvious," notes Kinjiro Ando, editor of a glossy, fashion-oriented monthly magazine for women. "Many men feel that respectable women should not be heavily perfumed. They have a preconceived notion that a heavy scent is for 'ladies of the evening' and not their own wives and daughters."

His observation is echoed by Toko Adachi, a top practitioner of the Japanese art of *ikebana* or flower arrangement. "Scents that suggest cleanliness and tranquillity, such as those of natural flowers and incense, have always found favour among the

aesthetically-oriented Japanese," she explains. "But we Japanese have yet to outgrow our traditional social conditioning that it's tacky for a woman to be reeking of strong perfume."

But Robert Leduc, chairman of a powerful association of French perfume and cosmetics makers, believes that most of the negative Japanese reaction to heavily perfumed women would disappear "if women learn to choose the right kind of perfume and wear it appropriately."

"One thing I have come to understand after my visits to Japan is that Japanese women are still lacking in experience there," he adds.

Bertrand Lacave, vice-president of Parfums Nina Ricci, whose wife is Japanese, comments: "Western women assert themselves through fashion. And for any woman, wearing a perfume that matches her is an effective way of asserting her individuality. Japanese women, on the other hand, have been traditionally discouraged from any overt self-assertion. But today, when the ranks of modern, career-oriented women are swelling, I should think that their concept of womanly refinement has become considerably westernised."

President Yoshio Ohno of Shiseido, Japan's top cosmetics maker, shares the well-worn French philosophy that "a woman who forgets to wear a perfume is as good as naked, even if she is decked out in the finest outfit."

However, he admits that he has no effective answer to give his compatriots when they ask, "Why is that?" — Asahi News Service, Tokyo.

Randa Habib's

'The good, the bad and the ugly'

YES, Amman is getting cleaned up, thanks to the effort of the city's municipality which has been very active in repairing street holes, planting flowers and repainting hedges.

A foreign municipal delegation recently visiting Jordan said they believe Amman is one of the better organised cities of the Middle East.

All this is good. But I have two remarks to make.

First, why do we keep on building roundabouts if we are going to remove them afterwards? The Wadi Saqra Circle disappeared not long after it was erected. The Ministry of Interior Circle and the Third Circle got smaller after everybody realised that they were causes for traffic jams. In this perspective, why then build this huge roundabout in Abdou area?

The second remark concerns the "monuments" that are springing up all over. There seems to be a general attraction for coffee-pots. I have noted three. One, in downtown Amman, and two outside the capital. A big coffee-pot made of stone on the way to Naur and another on the road to Moadkar on the way to the desert castles.

At Marj Al Hamam one can see white stone pigeons. At the new Abdou circle, a hideous black-stone fort is under construction. Not to mention the big round ball that used to decorate the Ministry of Interior Circle and which later was moved to another part of Amman.

But worst of all is certainly this dead branch with vultures, placed in the Wadi Saqra area. I have never seen anything as grim. Aren't we content with flowers and trees to decorate our streets? And if we feel we have so much money to spare for monuments, then let our sculptors expose some of their talents. I am certain that we will find a finer taste in their works.

Britain's education system worries parents, industry

By Nicholas Pithyian

LONDON — A growing proportion of British parents, dissatisfied with the state education system, are paying to send their children to private schools.

Industrialists, competing against countries that put a high premium on producing a skilled workforce, say many British children leave state schools ill-equipped for work.

Teachers, who have just ended a protracted campaign of selective strikes over pay and spending on education, are quitting the profession citing poor rewards and low morale.

"Britain has now reached the point where some articulate parents and employers doubt whether its education is worth tuppence," the business weekly the Economist lamented.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, with one eye on Britain's economic performance and one on public opinion, acknowledges that education will be an issue in the next general election, which she must call by 1992.

Her education secretary Sir Keith Joseph wrote in one newspaper: "Too many children complete their 11 years of compulsory schooling unable to read and write properly, unable to go beyond simple arithmetic, unable to formulate ideas and express them clearly."

"What they also need, perhaps more importantly, is an understanding of tomorrow's technology, of science and engineering, and of communications technology," he added.

Critics of government education policy, including some traditional Thatcher supporters, say Britain must act now if it is to restore morale in its schools and rival the skilled workforces of competitors such as Japan, West Germany, France, the U.S. or developing countries such as South Korea.

"All the evidence suggests that the performance of economies now depends increasingly on the education and skills — the accumulated 'human capital' — of their workers," the Financial Times, Britain's top business daily, said.

"If Britain is to flourish in future decades, it will need to be knowledge-rich. Education is the sector that needs the biggest boost, yet during the Thatcher years it has received a battering," it added in its influential *London* column.

"The seeds of another stage in Britain's relative decline may have been sown in the progressive alienation of teachers."

The teachers' selective pay strikes, which lasted 13 months in England and Wales and 20 months in Scotland disrupted classroom life and left a legacy of bitterness.

Teachers in Scotland won a 15 per cent increase in pay over two years and the promise of an independent pay review. Teachers in England settled reluctantly for 8.5 per cent and some of their union leaders have warned that hostilities could break out again over the 1986 pay claim.

Teachers, traditionally ranked with doctors, lawyers or churchmen in British society, say that under Thatcher they earn less than the policemen and some have to supplement their income with welfare payments or second jobs to make ends meet.

With salaries ranging from just over £8,000 (\$11,700) at the bottom to just under £24,000 (\$35,000) for heads of large sch-

ools, high-calibre people are opting for industry or the world of finance where they can earn much more, they add. This is particularly true of science teachers.

They also say that government cuts in education spending, part of a drive to rein in state spending and curb inflation, are denying them up-to-date equipment needed to teach children modern technological skills.

Independent surveys reinforce the point by suggesting that youngsters leaving school in other major industrialised countries learn more over a broader range of subjects than their British counterparts.

"Such evidence as there is appears to show that England does worse than its competitors," the Economist said in a review of British education.

The Financial Times noted that Britain had a smaller proportion of 20 to 24-year-olds in higher education than South Korea.

The government, which is fighting to curb record unemployment of more than one in eight of the workforce, has introduced a range of training schemes for school leavers, many of whom would otherwise have little chance of work.

Education secretary Joseph recently urged employers to invest more time and money by offering training and work experience designed to create a better qualified workforce.

"There are many signs of a new spirit of education-employer cooperation... But more commitment is needed if we are to get up to the levels of vocational and training shown, for example, in West Germany," he said.

Britain, where children must by law attend school between the ages of five and 16, spends some £16 billion (\$23 billion) a year on education.

The government, which places great stock on value for money, plans a string of reforms.

It wants to weed out poor teachers. Unlike parts of the United States, where teachers have been made to sit exams, it plans to introduce a system of assessment.

The main teachers' union have so far rejected the idea but Joseph has offered a \$1.25 billion (\$1.8 billion) sweetener.

In return, he also wants teachers to agree that supervision of children during lunch time, attendance at parents meetings and other extra-curricular activities — such as weekend and evening sport — is part of their contract.

The government is also introducing a new examination, which assesses pupils' work during the school year and shifts the emphasis from what they do not know to what they do. The aim is to give employers a better idea of the worth of school leavers.

The government also wants to give parents more say in their children's education, by putting them in a majority on school governing bodies, but right-wingers in the Conservative Party want Thatcher to go further.

They are pressing for the introduction of vouchers which will enable parents to send children to the school of their choice, whether in the state or private sector.

Private schools, usually unknown as public schools, are traditionally the preserve of the upper classes and the rich. At present, six per cent of the country's school population of about 9.5 million are taught there, a rise from 5.5 per cent in 1979. Surveys suggest that more parents are seeking to send their children to fee-paying schools.

Kenya's Ngugi, Zola Budd capture world cross-country titles

NEUCHÂTEL, Switzerland (R) — Kenya's John Ngugi hung on to win the men's title at the World Cross-Country Championships Sunday after his courageous display of front running so nearly ended in disaster.

The brave Kenyan, running in his first world championship, tried to follow the devastating example set by England's Zola Budd, who led from the first bend to win the women's race by 18 seconds and retain the crown she won in Lisbon.

Ngugi built up a 200-metre lead halfway through the 12-kilometre race, only to see it whittled away by a chasing group including fellow-Kenyan Joseph Kiptum, Abebe Mekonnen of Ethiopia and American Pat Porter.

Mekonnen, who finished only fifth in the Ethiopian trials, eventually caught the tiring Ngugi with 1.5 kilometre to run and the 21-year-old appeared set to claim Ethiopia's third men's title in five years.

But Ngugi summoned up the strength for a final effort in the closing 500 metres and passed Mekonnen to clinch Kenya's first men's title since the championship began.

Kiptum followed Mekonnen home with 1983 champion Bekele

Debele of Ethiopia fourth. Porter, the first non-African home, was sixth with world and Olympic 10,000 metres champion Alberto Cova ninth.

Budd triumphed in 14 minutes 49.6 seconds to win convincingly from American Lynn Jennings with France's Annette Sergent third.

Ngugi said after his win that he had never before run further than 5,000 metres. He said he felt very good on the climb and the ground conditions, which deteriorated during the day in the heavy rain and high wind, did not bother him.

"When I made my final attack, I knew I was going to win because Mekonnen was very tired," said the 21-year-old civil servant from Nairobi.

Ngugi made his break a third of the way into the race after Cova, England's Tim Hutchings and Ezequiel Canario of Portugal had taken the 400-strong field through the first three kilometres.

The Kenyan's loping, loose-limbed stride was well-suited to the muddy conditions but it was

eventually his courage which carried him to the coveted gold medal.

Kenya, with five runners in the top 10, ended the four year rule of Ethiopia as men's team champions. The Ethiopians were second ahead of the United States.

Budd left the starting line at a gallop and once she had taken the lead the race was as good as over.

Britain's Carole Bradford and Julie Laughton tried to stay with their South African-born teammate but Jennings, wearing gloves against the cold, was soon left in lonely pursuit of the world 5,000 metres record holder.

Budd never looked back as her metronomic stride took her remorselessly towards her second cross country title at the age of 19.

Sergent was followed by French teammate Martine Says.

One of the pre-race favourites, Rosa Mota of Portugal, was fifth and New Zealand, whose Christine McMillen finished seventh, won the team title ahead of Britain.

The field was missing many of the top athletes Budd beat last year in Lisbon.

But this cannot detract from the all-round strength of the girl from Bloemfontein, who has won in the heat of the Portuguese capital.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Real Madrid clinches league title

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid Sunday won the Spanish league when they beat Real Valladolid home 2-1 four rounds before the end of the season. The title, the first for the Real since 1980, qualifies them to play the European Soccer Cup.

Nelson Piquet wins Brazil Grand Prix

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's Nelson Piquet, driving a Williams, Sunday won the Brazilian Grand Prix, the first race of the 1986 Formula One season.

FISA levies \$50,000 fine on Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The International Automobile Federation (FISA) said Sunday it had imposed a \$50,000 fine on the organisers of the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix over incidents involving the police on Friday. FISA also warned that unless the Brazilian government could guarantee no repetition of the incident, in which police stopped the morning practice session for Sunday's Grand Prix, Brazil would be excluded from the 1987 Formula One season. Police walked out onto the track and halted practice on Friday for 45 minutes following a dispute over race credentials for security officials.

Kuwait, Qatar triumph in Gulf soccer action

BAHRAIN (R) — Kuwait, celebrating a return to international soccer after a nine-week ban, trounced Saudi Arabia 3-1 in a dazzling performance Sunday on the second day of the seven-nation Gulf Soccer Cup Championship. In Sunday's second match, Qatar beat Oman 2-1 in play marred by blunders on both sides. After a mediocre performance in the first half, the Omanis launched several promising attacks in the second, but ultimately were unable to upset the more experienced Qataris.

Kuwait, five-time winners of the Gulf crown, dominated the second half of their game, with Saudi Arabia losing morale after defender Abdel Rahman Al

Roumi was sent off. Saudi Arabia, who topped Kuwait in the 1984 Asian Cup Championship, failed to capitalise on scoring chances from several corners despite the cheers of some 4,000 of their fans allowed to cross the new Saudi-Bahrain causeway, not yet officially opened, for the game.

Kuwait's victory, a boost to their first-ever Kuwaiti coach Faleh Zakaria, puts them at the top of the table in the two-week event, following World Cup finalists Iraq's goalless draw against Bahrain in Saturday's opening match.

Iraq play the United Arab Emirates on Monday.

Howe resignation a surprise

LONDON (AP) — The surprise resignation of Don Howe, manager of one of England's most famous soccer teams, Arsenal, may have been prompted by reports that the club was interested in replacing him with Terry Ven-

ables, the current boss of Spanish giants Barcelona, press reports said Sunday.

Howe shocked domestic English soccer by asking Arsenal's board to free him from his contract, which was due to expire anyway at the end of this season.

Howe, who is also chief coach to the England national team, would make no further comment as he left with the England squad for a World Cup warmup match against the Soviet Union in Tbilisi on Wednesday.

The resignation announcement came as such a surprise — immediately after Arsenal's 3-0 win over Coventry on Saturday — that not even Howe's players were given any warning.

Boxing controversy stirs anew

By Andrew Warshaw
AP Sports Writer

LONDON — The death of a British professional boxer who lapsed into a coma in the ring and never recovered has revived a long-running political and medical debate over whether the sport should be banned.

Critics said the case of Scottish welterweight Steve Watt, who died in the hospital last Monday night three days after collapsing in a non-title fight, reinforced their campaign for a ban, or at least a radical review of safety standards.

But supporters of boxing countered that tight controls were already in force. A ban, they said, would only drive fighters underground and make the sport even more dangerous, a practice that current controls specifically were designed to prevent.

In the 10th and last round of his fight against favoured Rocky Kelly last Friday at the West London Hotel, 28-year-old Watt was stopped after taking several head punches at the end of a reportedly savage contest.

He was carried out of the ring on a stretcher, rushed to the hospital in a coma and never regained consciousness.

As newspaper headlines reported Watt's death Tuesday — the 12th British boxing fatality since World War II and the 340th worldwide — the British Boxing Board of Control prepared to hold an inquiry into the fight this week.

But the anti-boxing lobby used the occasion to step up their demands for government action.

"This is yet another indication of the serious damage caused by boxing," said Renee Short, a member of parliament from the main opposition Labour Party.

"It needs to be regulated much more strictly. Boxers should not be allowed to rain blows on their opponents' head."

Before Watt's death, the last boxer to lose his life after fighting in a British ring was Nigeria's

West African bantamweight champion, Young Ali.

Ali died six months after being knocked out by the current World Boxing Association featherweight champion, Barry McGuigan, in mid-1982.

Watt was the first British boxer to die after a fight in 5½ years.

In September 1980, Welsh bantamweight Johnny Owen collapsed in a coma after being knocked down for the second time in a championship bout with Mexico's Lupe Pintor in Los Angeles. He died 46 days later.

Dr. John Dawson, under-secretary for the British Medical Association (BMA), which represents two-thirds of the country's 97,000 doctors, commented: "Being repeatedly struck on the head always carries with it the risk of this sort of damage."

"There is no safe level of being struck about the head. You are at risk of a steady accumulation of damage."

The BMA has been using new brain scanning techniques to gather information about the effects of boxing on the brain. In 1984, it published the findings of a two-year survey that concluded that the sport could cause permanent brain and eye damage, and even death.

The report, intended to illustrate the long-term dangers of the sport, said that boxers could sustain severe injuries, especially to the brain, without showing any immediate symptoms.

It said that even a single blow could generate enough force to cause permanent brain damage which, it added, normally showed up in one of two ways: after a single fight or over a long period of time.

On Independent Television, Dawson accused ringside doctors of telling boxers into a false sense of security by passing them as fit to fight.

"You cannot heal the damage that occurs. It's up to the com-

munity as a whole to decide whether this is an acceptable way of inflicting violence on other people," he said.

Dr. Jeffrey Candy, a BMA consultant anaesthetist, warned that boxing had entered "its most deadly era."

"Thousands of youngsters are training to be stronger and hit harder," he said. "The inevitable result will be many more tragic deaths like this one unless we act now and stop this senseless punishment."

But Dr. Adrian Whiteson, chief medical officer for the British Boxing Board of Control, said there were strict controls governing the sport.

"We retire boxers when we think their conditions may allow them to suffer some form of brain damage. Money does not speak louder than sense in this country," he said.

In the latest case, former British heavyweight champion David Pearce was suspended in early 1984 by the British Boxing Board when a routine brain scan revealed a congenital abnormality.

Pearce tried for two years to get his fighter's license back but gave up his struggle earlier this year and withdrew his appeal.

Whiteson said that banning professional boxing would be counter-productive.

"All it would do is drive boxing underground and then there would not be any medical controls at all. Then we'll get more of these tragedies, not every four or five months," he said.

Meanwhile, at Charing Cross Hospital, where Watt died on Monday, officials said his parents had given permission for his heart, liver and kidneys to be donated for transplant.

"He was a very fit man and the organs were in fantastic condition," said a Regional Health Authority spokesman. "His death will help two or three people live."

PSG increase lead to seven points

PARIS (R) — Runaway leaders Paris Saint-Germain moved closer to the French First Division soccer title when they beat Toulon 1-0 Saturday night with a second-half goal from substitute Omar Sene.

While their nearest rivals Nantes and Bordeaux struggled to disappointing draws against Lens and Auxerre respectively, the Parisians stretched their lead at the top to seven points thanks to the intervention of the Senegalese international.

Despite their firm grip at the top of the table, however, PSG could do little to satisfy a 10,000 crowd at the Parc Des Princes during the first 45 minutes as Toulon's defensive blanket successfully dampened all attacks.

But it was a different story after the interval when Paris lifted the pace and deservedly scored in the 62nd minute, Sene applying the finishing touch following a corner by Yugoslav international Safet Susic.

Sene had come on only seconds earlier as substitute for Robert Jaques and he scored with his first touch of the ball.

Second-placed Nantes, knocked out of the UEFA Cup last

Wednesday by Internazionale Milan, were unable to erase their disappointment and drew 0-0 against Lens, one of several teams challenging for a possible place in Europe next season.

Third-placed Bordeaux, the defending champions, had the better of Auxerre for most of their match, but conceded a last-minute equaliser and had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Bayer slams in 4 more goals

BONN (R) — Bayer Uerdingen followed up their remarkable European success in midweek with a 4-1 away win over fourth-placed Hamburg in the West German soccer league Saturday.

The Krefeld side, which beat Dynamo Dresden 7-5 on aggregate in the European Cup Winners' Cup last Wednesday after trailing 3-1 overall at halftime, were helped on their way by Matthias Herget's spectacular second

goal, a 50-metre lob dropping over Hamburg goalkeeper Uli Stein.

Earlier Iceland international Larus Gudmundsson gave Bayer the lead, Franz Raschid and Peter Lontjens scored Bayer's other goals before Thomas Von Heesen claimed one for Hamburg.

Borussia Moenchengladbach could only draw 1-1 at home with Eintracht Frankfurt.

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Horoscope not received

Pravda: U.S. nuclear test is affront to world opinion

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Communist Party daily Pravda on Sunday called the latest U.S. nuclear test an affront to world public opinion and warned that Washington bears responsibility for the consequences of "this short-sighted step."

The bomb, code-named Glencoe, was detonated Saturday at a test site in the state of Nevada despite protests by more than 60 members of the U.S. Congress and despite repeated Soviet offers of a joint moratorium on such tests.

A self-imposed Kremlin moratorium on nuclear tests that began last August expires March 31.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced on March 13 that the moratorium would be extended beyond March until the United States conducted another test. Pravda did not make clear whether Saturday's explosion would prompt the Soviet Union to resume testing after the end of March.

But the newspaper warned that the U.S. government "assumes the great responsibility for the consequences of this short-sighted step."

"Openly mocking international

public opinion and neglecting demands of its own people, the U.S. administration sanctioned the test of a nuclear device," Pravda said.

"Such is the answer of the White House to the appeal of the Soviet Union to join in a test ban, it said.

The Soviet news agency TASS quickly reported the test Saturday, calling it a "new militaristic action" by the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Both TASS and Pravda emphasised opposition within the United States to the test, including a petition signed by more than 60 members of Congress and various public protests around the country.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, an Oregon Republican and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, accused the administration Saturday of playing a "macho game," while the State Department said such tests were necessary to "ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear deterrent."

Sen. Hatfield, interviewed on U.S. television said: "I don't know what kind of a macho game plan we are engaged in but I do know one thing — it's not going to lead us closer to peace, it's going to lead us closer to war."

The U.S. government, which has refused to join the Soviet moratorium, says the Kremlin only stopped testing after completing a series of tests aimed at modernising their bomb.

"Under existing conditions, neither a moratorium nor a comprehensive test ban would enhance the cause of security, stability or peace," a State Department spokesman said Saturday.

Department of Energy (DOE) spokesman Jim Boyer said the blast, with a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons, was "routine" and unrelated to the development of hydrogen bomb-powered X-ray laser weapons for Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or "Star Wars," anti-missile programme.

Reagan criticises opposition to \$100 m Contra aid

NEW YORK (Agencies) — President Reagan, in an interview published Sunday in the New York Times, criticised members of Congress for suggesting he wanted to send troops to Central America.

He also said in the interview that he would not grant immunity from prosecution for ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, now in exile in Hawaii, if he had violated U.S. law.

The president said he still hoped for a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in June or July and added that he was not disappointed at the pace of arms talks.

Asked about the vote in the House of Representatives on Thursday in which his request for \$100 million in aid for the so-called Contra rebels was defeated, Mr. Reagan said:

"Some of the opponents of our programme engaged in some of the most scurrilous personal attacks against me, for example, the most dishonest use of distortions and outright falsehoods that I have heard in a legislative debate."

Mr. Reagan said opponents of the aid had wrongly suggested that he wanted to send troops to Central America.

"You're looking at an individual that is the last one in the world that would ever want to put American troops into Latin America," he said.

Asked if he believed Marcos should escape prosecution if he were charged with corruption, Mr. Reagan said he would let the law take its course.

"I've said that I think the laws of not only our nation, but the Philippine government and international law... should be observed," Mr. Reagan said.

The new Philippine government of President Corason Aquino has accused Marcos of robbing billions of dollars in public funds during his 20 years in office.

On arms control talks with the Soviet Union, he said: "If you look back at the pattern of such negotiations with the Soviets, there has never been any speed in those negotiations."

He said he was optimistic about U.S.-Soviet relations because Moscow stood to gain from improving them.

He also said he was hopeful of a summit with the Soviet Union in June or July.

No date has yet been agreed on for the summit but political observers say Moscow would prefer a summit later in the year.

Mr. Reagan demanded Saturday that the House vote be reversed, and he hailed the Contras as helping protect U.S. security.

"I cannot accept this House action as final," Mr. Reagan said in his weekly radio address, the third in the past month devoted to the battle over aid to the Contras.

"Every day that this vote is permitted to stand, every day the freedom fighters are left defenceless against Soviet helicopter gunships, more lives will be lost and the dangers will grow from this Soviet beachhead on our continent," Mr. Reagan said.

The president routinely refers to the Contra rebels battling the Marxist Sandinista government of Nicaragua as "freedom fighters."

Mr. Reagan heaped praise on the rebels, saying even though they are outnumbered, they have contributed their "blood and courage" to fight for democracy in Central America.

Nakasone: Japan must defend itself

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told graduating military cadets Sunday that Japan must be prepared to defend itself with its own hands.

"We must work to coconstruct an efficient, concentrated and high-quality defence capability," Mr. Nakasone told the 415 graduates of the National Defence Academy in Kanagawa prefecture (state), just west of Tokyo. Academy spokesman Seiji Kamiya quoted excerpts from his speech.

"Despite some optimism in East-West relations resulting from the U.S.-Soviet summit last November, the world situation remains severe," Mr. Nakasone said.

"On the basis of promoting general security policy and offsetting Japan-U.S. security agreements, we must resolve to defend our own country with our own hands," he declared.

Japan's overall defence policy calls for gradually improving defence capability while adhering to the 1947 constitution, which renounces war. Its military officially is called the Self Defence Forces.

The United States, which has a mutual defence treaty with Japan, has urged the Japanese to build up their defensive strength more rapidly, but the government so far has maintained a limit that holds defence spending to 1 per cent of the nation's Gross National Product.

Thatcher party trails Labour in poll

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative party trails the opposition Labour party by 8 percentage points in an opinion poll published Sunday.

The survey, by Market And Opinion Research International for the Sunday Times, gave Labour 39 per cent — its best showing in a year — the Conservatives 31 per cent and the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic Party alliance 28 per cent.

The latest sounding was conducted Thursday and Friday among 1,084 voters after the government announced a low-deficit budget Tuesday that made a modest cut in income tax, gave tax breaks to stock investors but appeared to offer little to the record 13.3 per cent unemployed. No margin of error was given for the poll.

It also showed that 80 per cent approved the 1 per cent cut in the basic rate of tax to 29 per cent, while 58 per cent were in favour of incentives to encourage small investors to buy company shares, aimed at creating what Mrs. Thatcher calls "popular capitalism."

But 88 per cent agreed that the government had fared poorly in dealing with unemployment.

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But 88 per cent agreed that the government had fared poorly in dealing with unemployment.

S. Koreans stage protest in Pusan

PUSAN, South Korea (R) — More than 20,000 people demanding the resignation of President Chun Doo Hwan marched Sunday through the streets of Pusan, South Korea's second largest city.

Witnesses said the protesters, chanting "down with military dictatorship" and "amend the constitution," scuffled with police men lining the route as they walked in drizzling rain from a rally in the city centre.

The march through the south-eastern city was led by leading dissident Kim Young-Sam and Yi Min-U, president of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP).

Police allowed the demonstrators to go to the offices of the NKDP's local headquarters, one kilometre away from the rally site, but prevented them from spilling out onto other streets, witnesses said.

Barriers, police stopped the country's most prominent dissident, Kim Dae-Jung, from boarding a train at Seoul to attend the Pusan rally.

Mr. Kim, in a tape-recorded message played at the rally, urged South Koreans to turn their country into a "second Philippines."

"The (political) spring which landed in the Philippines is now forcefully dashing towards Korea," Mr. Kim said, referring to last month's rebellion which toppled the 20-year-rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

Mr. Kim Young-Sam told the rally: "A war between justice and evil has started. This march towards democracy must not be stopped... and calls for ever risking our lives."

The opposition party says nearly 10,000 people, including clergymen, students and dissidents, have signed a petition urging Mr. Chun to allow direct presidential elections.

Mr. Kim Young-Sam accused the government of trying to divert attention from the rally by forcing commuter buses to detour away from the rally site.

43-year-old man gets artificial heart

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Surgeons implanted a Jarvik-7 artificial heart into a 43-year-old factory foreman Saturday night in an attempt to keep him alive until a human donor heart becomes available, hospital officials said.

Guy Blake of East Liverpool, Ohio, was in critical condition following the five-hour operation, which ended just before midnight, said Tom Chakurda, spokesman for Presbyterian-University Hospital.

The surgery was "uncomplicated," Chakurda said. Blake suffers from cardiomyopathy, a degenerative heart disease. He was transferred to Presbyterian-University on March 12 to await a human heart transplant. He is the third person to undergo artificial-heart surgery at the hospital.

"Over the course of the last three days, he began to deteriorate to the point where the implant of the Jarvik-7 was the only medical option available to sustain life," Chakurda said.

Blake's name will be placed on a list of candidates for a human heart once he recovers sufficiently from the surgery, the spokesman said.

In Tucson, Arizona, two-time artificial heart recipient Bernadette Chayrez was taken off a respirator Saturday but was still in critical condition, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Ms. Chayrez continued to receive dialysis treatment because her kidneys had not been functioning properly, said University Medical Centre spokeswoman Jan Rooney. But Ms. Chayrez still showed steady improvement, Ms. Rooney said.

Doctors have said Ms. Chayrez might be a candidate for another human-heart transplant next month if she continues to get stronger.

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Sabah Muslim protesters accused over illegal march

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — More than 300 Muslim demonstrators who took refuge in Sabah's state mosque in Kota Kinabalu Sunday after a tear-gas attack by police have been released and issued with summonses, police said.

Police said they would be charged in court later with taking part in an illegal march.

They were among a crowd of about 500 who were tear-gassed and dispersed by police when they tried to stage a protest march against the east Malaysian state's largely Christian rulers.

Datuk Harris Salleh, a former chief minister and a member of the opposition Berjaya Party, together with some senior members of the Muslim opposition United Sabah National Organisation (USNO), were among those summoned.

In the south eastern town of Tawau, about 1,000 Muslims led by senior USNO leaders took part in a similar protest. Police dispersed the crowd and no arrests were reported.

Two bombs, one in Tawau and the other in the eastern town of Sandakan, were defused Sunday, police said. They added that more than 1,000 Muslims were still being held in connection with rioting and bombings which erupted 10 days ago.

Five people have been killed and about 20 injured since sectarian violence started with Muslims protesting against the mainly Christian Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) government of Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

A 12-hour dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed since Wednesday was relaxed by an hour Saturday as the situation appeared calmer. Mr. Pairin said Saturday that he thought the worst was over.

Mr. Harris, who has close links with federal leaders, told reporters earlier his followers were protesting against discrimination by Mr. Pairin's government against Muslims. Mr. Pairin has denied the charge.

Bangladesh opposition pulls out of elections

DHAKA (R) — A major opposition group announced Sunday it would boycott Bangladesh's general election in May, reversing an earlier decision to take part.

The seven-party alliance said political concessions by the military government did not go far enough and demanded the release of politicians jailed for corruption by military courts.

Alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia indicated she had split with the other major opposition group, a 15-party alliance which plans to contest the election which would return the country to civilian rule.

"The way the 15-party alliance has behaved gives me the impression that it was playing a previously set ball game" with the government, she said.

Both alliances said Saturday they would participate in the election on May 7 after President Hossain Mohammad Ershad announced he would drop pro-government party ministers from his cabinet and remove military commanders from civilian jobs.

The alliances had previously refused to contest any election, claiming the polls would be rigged in favour of the pro-government Jatiya Party.

Factions in the 15-party alliance, saying they represented at least five of the parties, said Sunday they also opposed taking part in the poll. The alliance includes the country's biggest opposition party, the Awami League.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami opposition party said it would take part and planned to fight most of parliament's 300 seats.

"Here is no alternative to election for ousting the military. This is the only power of the people," it said in a statement.

Meanwhile a university student and his sister were killed when a blast rocked their clandestine bomb factory in southern Bangladesh Saturday, police said.

Police later recovered several boxes of explosives and bomb-making components.

Residents in Pirojpur district said four children at a house nearby were hit by splinters and taken to hospital.

Union Carbide announces tentative Bhopal settlement

NEW YORK (R) — Union Carbide has announced that it had reached a tentative settlement over the 1984 Bhopal, India, gas disaster which killed 2,000 people and injured more than 200,000.

The settlement was reached with lawyers acting for families of the dead, and the injured, but not with the Indian government, a Carbide spokesman told Reuters.

Company spokesman Kurt Mazurosky stressed that Carbide would agree to the settlement only on the basis that it was final and there would be no further claims.

He declined to comment on a report in Sunday's editions of the New York Times that the company had agreed to settle for \$350 million.

"At this stage, we are not giving out any figures," he said.

He said the settlement was "worked out with some of the most prominent members of the plaintiff's bar in the United States."

In light of the government of India's desire to have a settlement based on U.S. standards, it would appear that their objective can now be achieved," he said.

Meese to hold talks on drug trafficking in India

NEW DELHI (R) — U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese will hold talks with top Indian leaders on drug trafficking during a three-day official visit, a U.S. embassy spokesman said Sunday.

Mr. Meese, who arrived in New Delhi Saturday night, told reporters he would discuss "the world-wide problem of drug trafficking and drug abuse."

"I look forward to discussions with Indian leaders on means to reduce this illegal commerce — commerce that is paid for in human misery," he said in an airport statement.

"We are determined to thwart this international traffic and we are equally committed to eradicating markets for the worldwide network of drug criminals by reducing the demand for these substances."

The spokesman said Mr. Meese, whose delegation includes John C. Lawn, head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was due to hold talks Monday with Law Minister Asoke Sen and Finance Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh as well as senior narcotics enforcement officials.

India has expressed concern about its growing position as a major transit point on the world drug smuggling map.

Police in North America and Europe say the "Indian connection" started in the early 1980s.

GORAN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GORAN AND OMAR SEARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ A654 ♠ 74 ♠ A105 ♠ AQ83
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠
 Pass ?
 What do you bid now?

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ K6 ♠ AK10954 ♠ 6 ♠ AJ104
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass
 ?
 What action do you take?

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ 95 ♠ 63 ♠ K98 ♠ KQ7652
 Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ 8 ♠ 767 ♠ AQ852 ♠ AK763
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 ?
 What action do you take?

Q.5 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ A1092 ♠ 763 ♠ Q9642 ♠ 8
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠
 Dblc Pass ?
 What action do you take?

Q.6 — As South vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ K987 ♠ Q5 ♠ 10752 ♠ 962
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass
 Dblc 2 ♠ Pass ?
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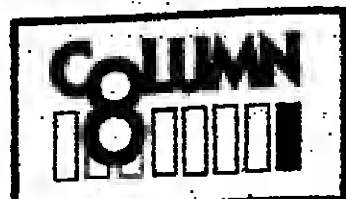
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Vet performs artificial beak transplant

EAST BERLIN (R) — An East German veterinary surgeon has carried out an artificial beak transplant on an injured stork, the official ADN news agency has said. It said the stork, which had been unable to eat or clack after damaging the bottom half of its beak, was given a plastic replacement in a two-hour operation near the city of Halle. It was fastened with chrome and nickel wire. A bulletin said the bird began clacking immediately after recovering from the anaesthetic and was doing well.

French to salvage Napoleonic ship

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — French divers started operations to salvage a ship from the Emperor Napoleon's fleet which was sunk by a British fleet led by Admiral Nelson in 1798 off the Egyptian coast. A spokesman for the team, Abdullah Attar, told Reuters the 10-man team led by Jean Floquet would continue diving missions in Abukir Bay east of here for 10 days. In July, they will start lifting wreckage of the ship, L'Orient, flagship of the fleet which brought Napoleon on his expedition to Egypt. Another team is expected here in May to scour the Mediterranean at Agami, west of here, to locate another French naval ship, Le Patriote, which hit nearby rocks a month before the Abukir clash, dubbed the Battle of the Nile.

Nudists tear a strip off the law

NEW DELHI (R) — Police beat a bare-bottomed retreat after a bungled attempt to stop a procession of nudists in the south Indian town of Bangalore. Angry onlookers turned on the police and stripped them naked as they tried to prevent about 200 nude men and women from taking an annual ritual bath, the Press Trust of India reported. The nudists, worshippers from a nearby temple, manhandled a social worker who tried to stop them plunging in a river. The deputy superintendent, 13 policemen and two women constables who came to his rescue, are still looking for their uniforms.

3 hippos burn alive in train

MOSCOW (R) — Three hippopotamuses were burnt alive after their keeper had gone on a drinking bout leaving them unattended, a Soviet newspaper reported. The accident happened earlier this month as the animals were being transported by train from a circus in the Byelorussian town of Gomel to Leningrad, the daily Sovetskaya Kultura (Soviet Culture) said. The cramped, unventilated wagon contained an open stove to heat the beasts which tipped over and caught fire, engulfing the three — Hugo, Sandy and Casey — in flames. Their keeper returned to the scene later completely drunk, it said. The animals, who had been trained to gallop and dance the waltz, had been bought three years ago from West Germany at considerable cost in valuable hard-currency, it added. The newspaper said two bears and an elephant had died in similar cases recently and called for radical improvements in the transportation of circus animals.

Call girl to stand in California vote

LOS ANGELES (R) — A traffic officer-turned-call girl has announced her candidacy for lieutenant governor of California, saying "prostitution and politics have more in common than one might suppose." Norma Jean Almodovar, 34, told reporters she was the candidate of the California Libertarian Party in the November election. "It can even be said that since I have been prohibited from engaging in an honest profession, I am seeking to engage in a legal profession," she said. Almodovar worked as a civilian member of the Los Angeles Police Department for 10 years before becoming a 200-dollar-a-night call girl in 1982. In 1984 she was convicted of pandering for woman to persuade another woman to become a prostitute. Her election campaign will focus on so-called "victimless" crimes such as prostitution, gambling, private drug use and pornography, she said.